

NOV-DEC.

THE

10¢

CISCO KID

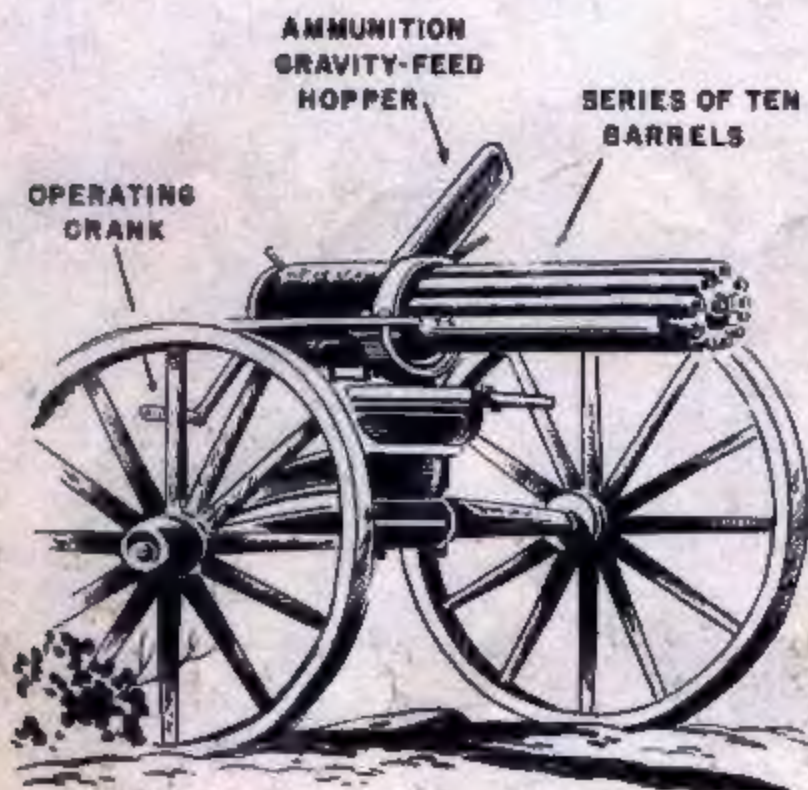


THE GATLING GUN

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FOR MANY YEARS, GUN DESIGNERS OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES ATTEMPTED TO DESIGN A RAPID FIRING WEAPON... BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL 1862, THAT DOCTOR RICHARD GATLING OF CHICAGO, INVENTED AND PERFECTED THE FIRST BATTERY OR MACHINE GUN. TO PROVE THE WEAPON'S CAPABILITIES TO U.S. GOVERNMENT MILITARY AUTHORITIES, DR. GATLIN HIRED OPERATORS TO DEMONSTRATE HIS GUN DURING AN ACTUAL CIVIL WAR BATTLE.

THE MECHANISM OF THE GATLING GUN CONSISTED OF A GROUP OF BARRELS MOUNTED IN A CIRCLE. THE BARRELS WERE REVOLVED BY TURNING A CRANK ON THE SIDE OF THE BREECH HOUSING. THE RATE OF FIRE DEPENDED ON HOW FAST THE CRANK WAS TURNED --- USUALLY AROUND 800 SHOTS PER MINUTE.



THE GUN DIDN'T SEE TOO MUCH ACTION DURING THE CIVIL WAR, BUT WAS USED TO GOOD EFFECT BY SOME ARMY UNITS DURING THE BITTER INDIAN WARS. WITH THESE DEADLY WEAPONS, THE FEARED INDIAN CHARGE WAS A THING OF THE PAST. IN TIME, IT WAS USED, NOT ONLY BY THIS COUNTRY, BUT BY MANY OTHER GOVERNMENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD. THE GATLING GUN SERVED ITS PURPOSE WELL UNTIL ABOUT 1908, WHEN THE MACHINE GUN, AS WE KNOW IT NOW, CAME INTO BEING AND USE.



THE CISCO KID

IN ALIAS EX-JAILBIRD

SUNDOWN FINDS THE CISCO KID
AND PANCHE WEARY FROM A
HARD DAY'S RIDE...

CISCO! PANCHE THINKS THE
BORDER IS PRETTY NEARLY
CLOSE BY! AND HE IS
STARVED HUNGRY FOR HIS
MAMA'S ENCHILADAS!

YOU WILL HAVE TO BE
CONTENT WITH BEANS
TONIGHT, PANCHE! WE
MUST REST!



I WILL SEE TO THE
HORSES WHILE YOU
BUILD A FIRE!

BUENO!



WHUH-HUH-
HUH?

LOCO! HE FOLLOWS
PANCHE! AH-HA! I
WILL MAKE HIM
CARRY BACK THE
WOOD STICKS!



SANTO! IT IS *NOT* LOCO!
IT IS ANOTHER BODY'S
HORSE! ALL BY
HIMSELF!



UNHH-
OOOH!

SANTA MARIA! AND
HERE IS THE BODY!





01-1-SS-SC000!

OH-OH! PANCHO IS IN TROUBLE AGAIN! IT NEVER FAILS! WE FIND EVERYTHING BUT REST!



PANCHO! WHO IS THAT HOMBRE?

WHO KNOWS? HIS HORSE FINDS PANCHO! PANCHO FINDS HIM!



HE IS HURT BAD IN THE HEAD BUT---

WAIT! HE IS TRYING TO SPEAK!



BLACK MIKE?..(GASP!) FRANKIE SAID ---SEE BLACK MIKE IN BOOTSTRAP? MAKE---LOTS---OF---CASH---



CISCO! THE SEÑOR IS DEAD! BUT NOW?

OFFHAND, I WOULD SAY HE EITHER FELL FROM, OR WAS THROWN BY HIS HORSE AND SUFFERED A FRACTURED SKULL!



HE IS BERT DOWNEY? HERE IS HIS PRISON DISCHARGE! DATED TWO DAYS AGO!

SANTO! AN EX-PRISON-JAILBIRD!

AND HERE IS A LETTER..
WRITTEN BY A MAN NAMED
FRANKIE GALE!...WHY, IT IS
A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION
TO BLACK MIKE GROGAN!



MADRE MIA! EVEN
PANCHO HEARS OF
THAT BAD ONE!

I HAVE HEARD OF HIM,
TOO! BUT I HAVE NEVER
MET HIM! HOWEVER...



MADRE MIA! SINCE
WHEN DOES THE CISCO
KID TAKE THE CLOTHES
FROM A DEAD HOMBRE?
OR EVEN A LIVE ONE?

SINCE
NOW!



HE IS ABOUT MY
BUILD! I SHOULD
BE ABLE TO WEAR
HIS CLOTHES!

AHA! NOW PANCHO
SABE! YOU WILL
PLAY AT BEING
THE DEAD HOMBRE.
AND GO TO FIND---



NO, CISCO! YOU CANNOT
DO THAT! IF BLACK MIKE
FIND OUT YOU ARE YOU
AND NOT THE DEAD
HOMBRE---

ONLY ONE OF
US WILL
COME THROUGH
ALIVE!



BUT IT IS A RISK I MUST TAKE, PANCHO!
THE LAW HAS WANTED BLACK MIKE
FOR A LONG TIME! THIS LOOKS
LIKE THE CHANCE TO NAB HIM!



WHAT ABOUT PANCHO?
THERE'S NOBODY'S
CLOTHES FOR HIM
TO WEAR---ONLY
HIS OWN!

BY MORNING, I
WILL HAVE A
PLAN FOR YOU!
NOW LET US BURY
THIS POOR CHAP!
THEN GET SOME
FOOD AND REST!



THE NEXT MORNING

REMEMBER! WE ARE
STRANGERS! AND IF
ANYONE RECOGNIZES
YOU AND ASKS FOR ME,
TELL THEM I AM IN
MEXICO ON BUSINESS!

SI!



LATER...

I WILL CUT CROSS-COUNTRY,
PANCHO! YOU STICK TO THE MAIN
ROAD! WHEN YOU REACH TOWN, HANG
AROUND THE LIVERY STABLE! I WILL
GET WORD TO YOU WHEN AND WHERE
TO MEET ME!

OKAY! BUT PANCHO WILL
NOT HANG AROUND THE
STABLE! HE WILL BE
OUTSIDE OF IT!



STILL LATER, IN BOOTSTRAP

GOOD MORNING, HOMBRES!
I'M LOOKING FOR A MAN
NAMED BLACK MIKE
GROGAN!

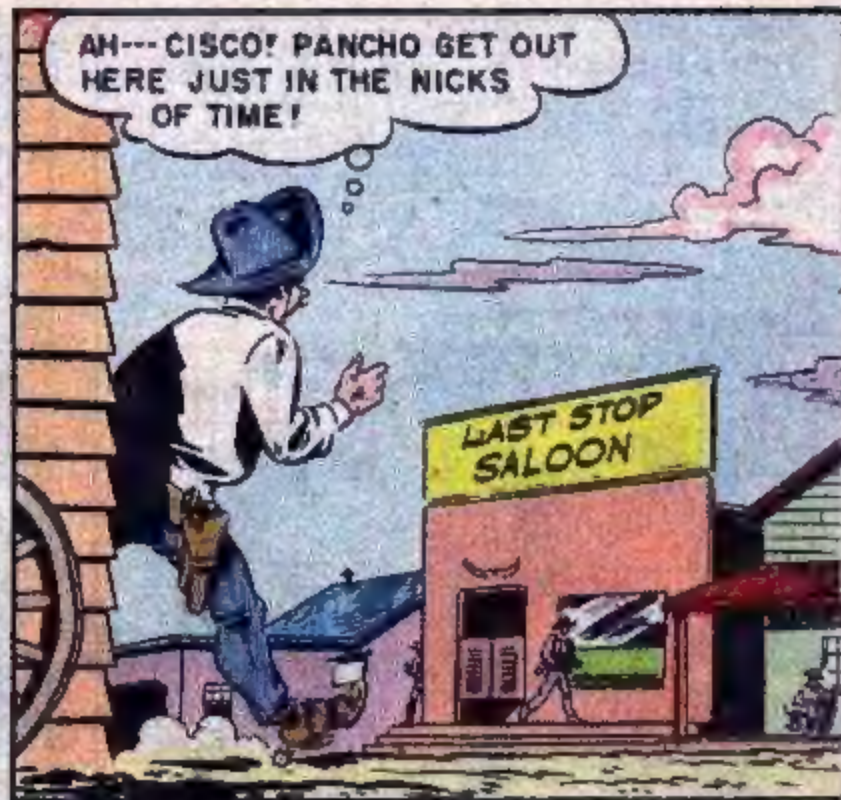
SO ARE A
LOT OF
FOLKS!
WHAT DO YOU
WANT WITH
HIM?

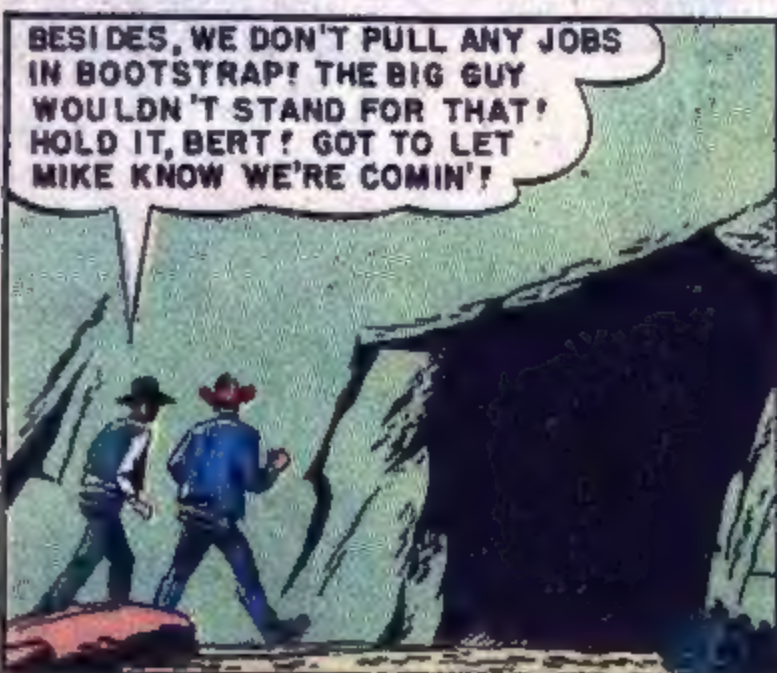


I HAVE A LETTER
FOR HIM FROM
FRANKIE GALE!
MY NAME IS---

BERT DOWNEY! I'M
SLIM OWNES, ONE
OF MIKE'S BOYS!
THE BOSS GOT WORD
YOU WERE ON THE WAY!
HE'S REAL ANXIOUS TO
MEET YOU!







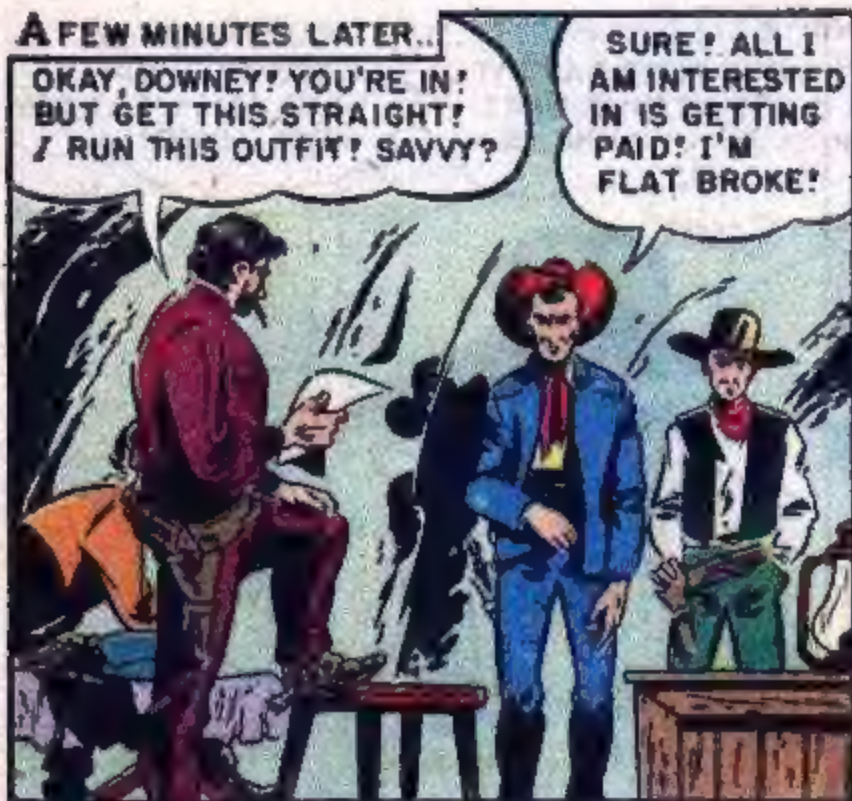
A FEW MINUTES LATER...

OKAY, DOWNEY! YOU'RE IN!
BUT GET THIS STRAIGHT!
I RUN THIS OUTFIT! SAVVY?

SURE! ALL I
AM INTERESTED
IN IS GETTING
PAID! I'M
FLAT BROKE!

YOU WON'T BE--- AFTER TOMORROW!
WE'RE CLEANIN' OUT THE EDGERTON
BANK AROUND NOON! IT'S BULGIN'
WITH GOLD ACCORDIN' TO THE
BIG GUY! AN' DON'T ASK ME
WHO HE IS 'CAUSE THAT'S
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!

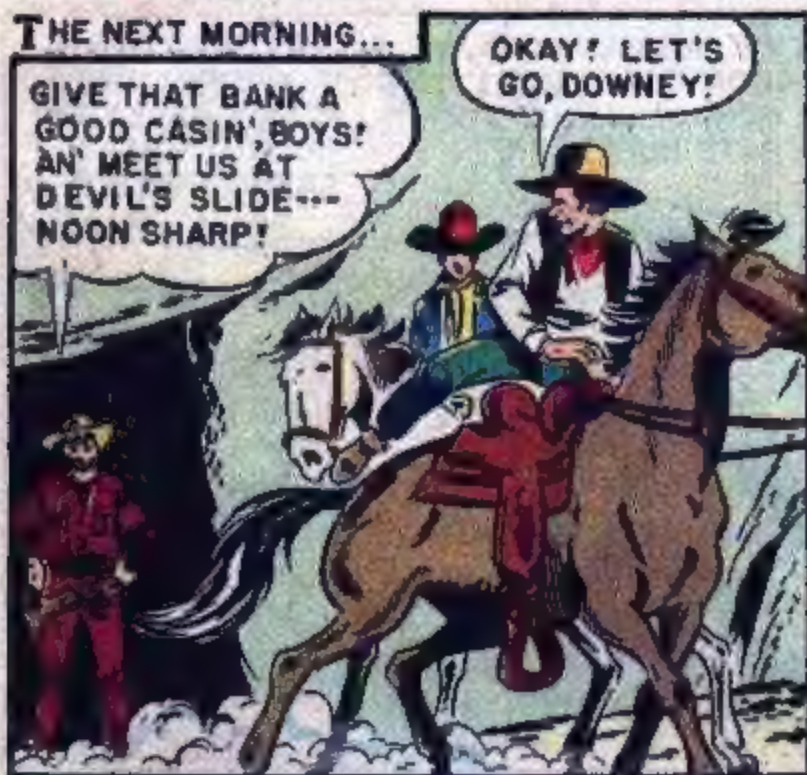
YOU
WOULD BE
SURPRISED,
HOMBRE!



THE NEXT MORNING...

GIVE THAT BANK A
GOOD CASIN', BOYS!
AN' MEET US AT
DEVIL'S SLIDE---
NOON SHARP!

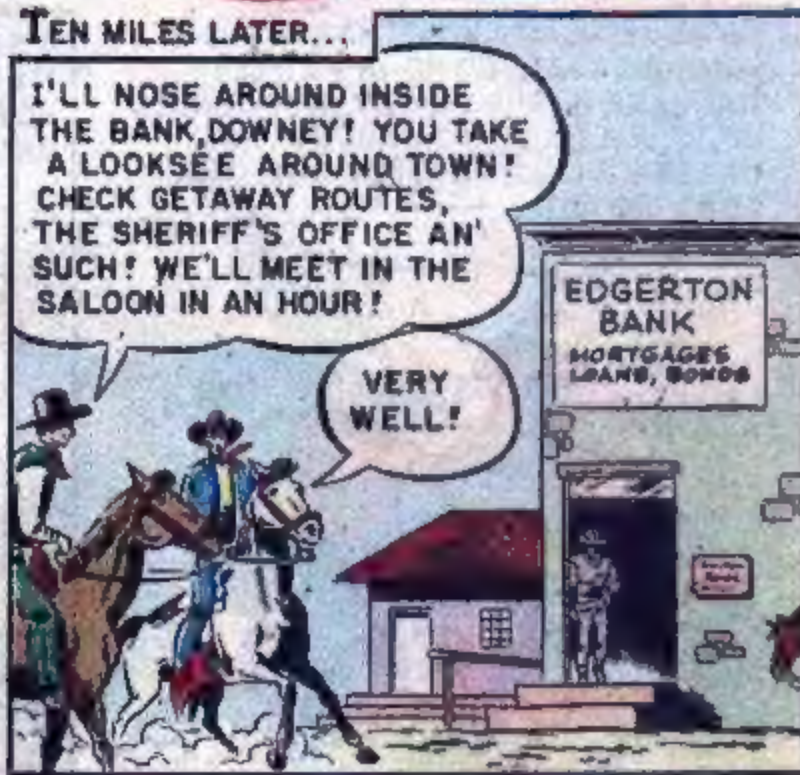
OKAY! LET'S
GO, DOWNEY!



TEN MILES LATER...

I'LL NOSE AROUND INSIDE
THE BANK, DOWNEY! YOU TAKE
A LOOKSEE AROUND TOWN!
CHECK GETAWAY ROUTES,
THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AN'
SUCH! WE'LL MEET IN THE
SALOON IN AN HOUR!

VERY
WELL!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

WHAT THE---! WHO ARE
YOU? AN' WHAT'S THE
IDEA OF SNEAKIN' IN
THE BACK WAY? I---

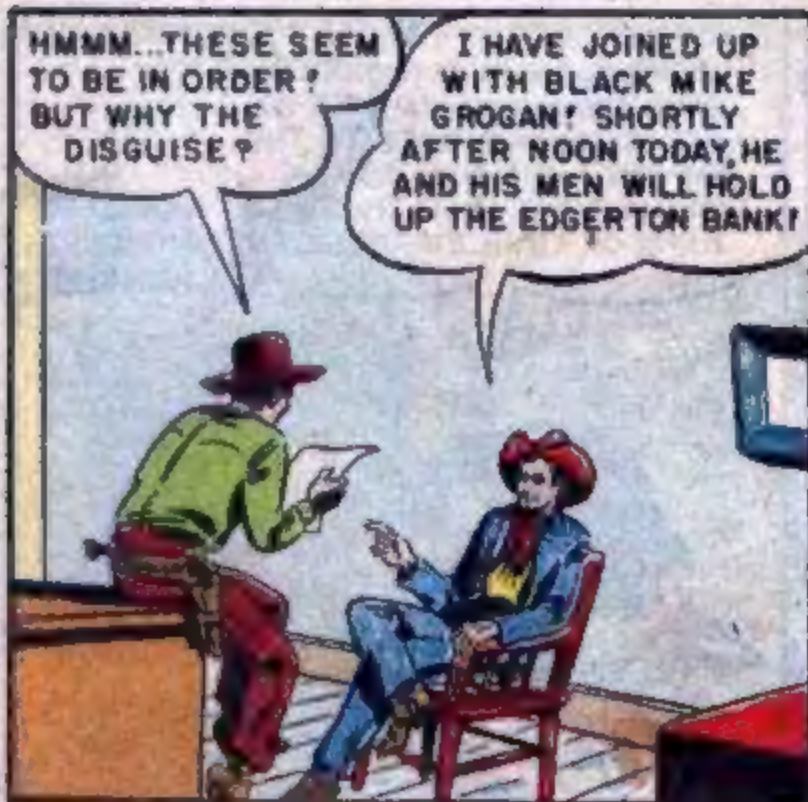
I DID NOT WISH
TO BE SEEN,
SHERIFF! I AM
THE CISCO KID!



A LIKELY STORY!
I NEVER MET CISCO
BUT I KNOW HE
DOESN'T DRESS
LIKE THAT! HE---

THIS IS A
DISGUISE! AND
HERE ARE MY
CREDENTIALS!





HMMM...THESE SEEM TO BE IN ORDER? BUT WHY THE DISGUISE?

I HAVE JOINED UP WITH BLACK MIKE GROGAN! SHORTLY AFTER NOON TODAY, HE AND HIS MEN WILL HOLD UP THE EDGERTON BANK!



NOT IF I CAN HELP IT! I'LL COVER EVERY ROAD IN TOWN! I'LL---

YOU WILL PREVENT THE HOLDUP, YES! BUT YOU WILL LET THE GANG ESCAPE!



BECAUSE BLACK MIKE HAS A BOSS! SOMEONE CALLED THE BIG GUY! IF THE GANG IS WIPED OUT, OR ROUNDED UP, HE WILL NOT BE CAUGHT! AND UNLESS HE IS, HE WILL HIRE OTHER GUNMEN AND---



I SAVVY! WHAT'S MORE, I'LL COOPERATE! BUT I HOPE NOBODY IN THE BANK GETS HURT!

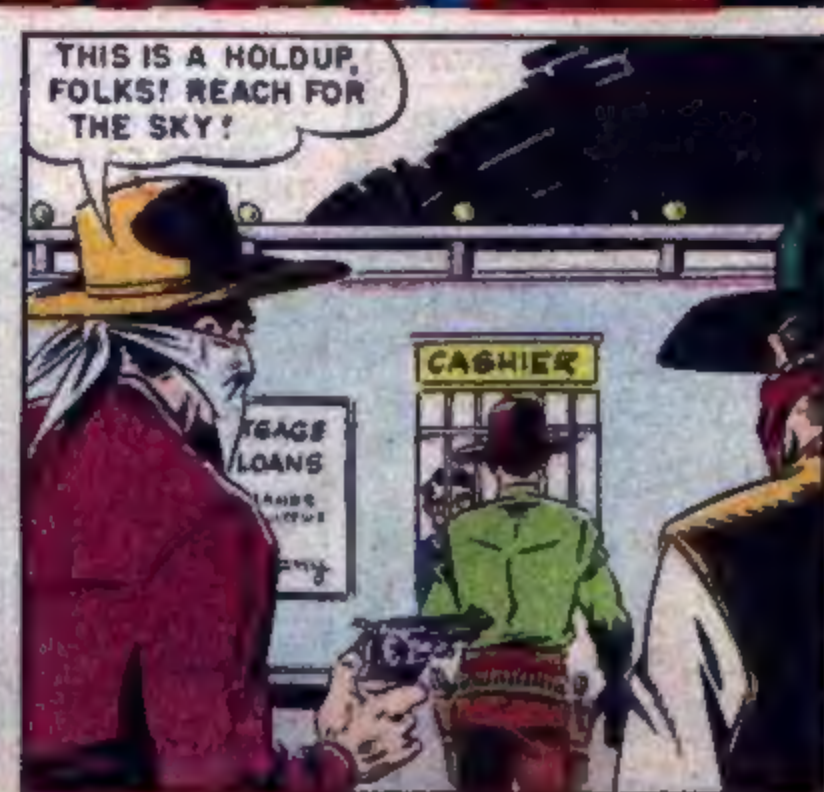
THEY WON'T--- IF YOU FOLLOW A PLAN I HAVE! AS SOON AS THE BANDITS ENTER...



LATER...

OKAY, BOYS! LET'S MAKE IT QUICK!

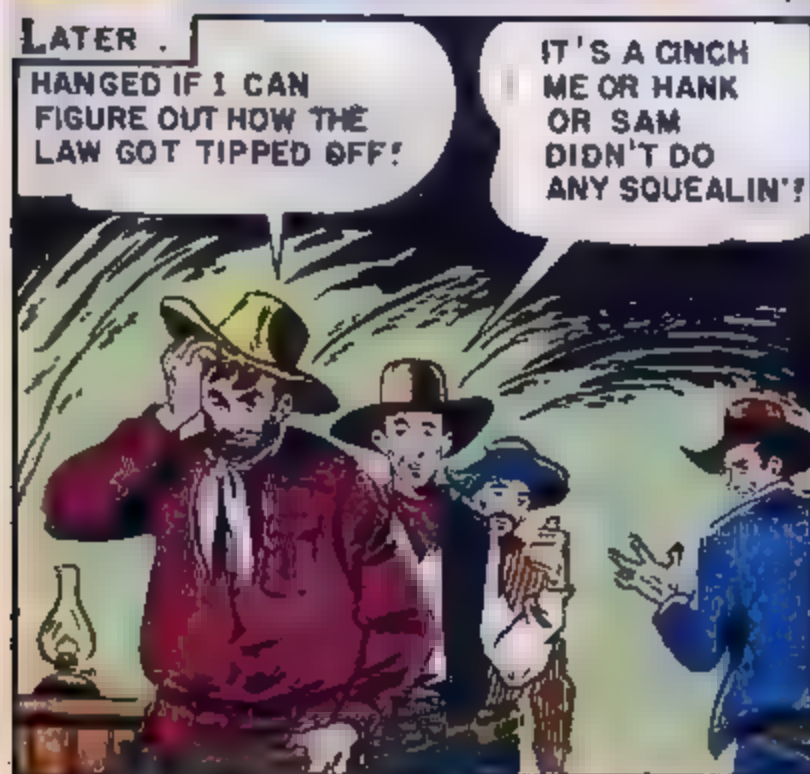
EDGERTON BANK



THIS IS A HOLDUP, FOLKS! REACH FOR THE SKY!

CASHIER

MORTGAGE LOANS



NOBODY CAN CALL ME
A 'SQUEALER' AND GO
ON LIVING' BESIDES,
YOU SAID I WOULD
NOT BE BROKE AFTER
THE BANK JOB AND---

TAKE IT
EASY, DOWNEY.
I'M MEETIN' THE
BIG GUY LATER.
I'LL GET A FEW
BUCKS FROM HIM
FOR YOU.

SUNDOWN.

LIKE I FIGURED, THE BIG
GUY IS PLENTY SORE
'CAUSE THE BANK JOB
WENT HAYWIRE! BUT
HE'S GOT ANOTHER---
EVEN BETTER---
IDEA!

TOMORROW, THE TWO-
THIRTY TRAIN FROM
BOOTSTRAP TO EDGERTON
WILL BE CARRYIN' A BIG
GOLD SHIPMENT.

THE BIG GUY DON'T
WANT THAT GOLD TO
GET BEYOND THE
CREST OF WOLF
RIDGE. I TOLD HIM
WE'D MAKE SURE
IT DIDN'T SOUND
OKAY TO YOU,
DOWNEY?

YES.
BUT A TRAIN
HOLDUP TAKES
CAREFUL PLANNING.

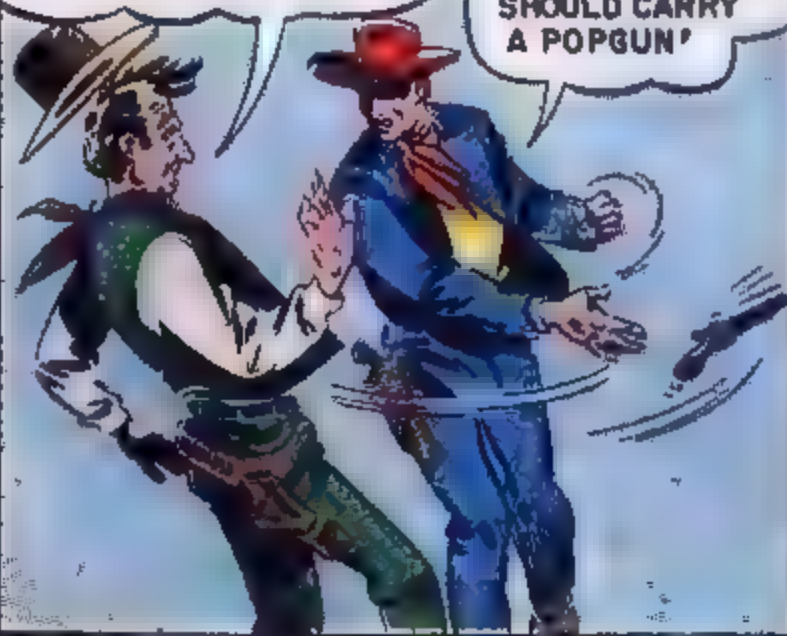
DON'T WORRY! THE BIG
GUY'LL WORK OUT A SURE-
FIRE PLAN! HE'S RIDIN'
UP HERE TOMORROW
MORNIN' TO---

SANTO!

BLAM!

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT,
DOWNEY' I SWEAR
IT' I WAS JUST
CLEANIN' MY GUN AN'---

IT WENT OFF---
ACCIDENTALLY ON
PURPOSE, EH?
MAYBE YOU
SHOULD CARRY
A POPGUN'



BLAST IT! IF YOU DON'T
QUIT ARCHIN' YOUR BACKS,
I'LL WIPE UP THE GROUND
WITH BOTH OF YOU!



RECKON WE'VE BEEN COOPED
UP TOO LONG' C'M ON' WE'LL
RIDE INTO BOOTSTRAP AN'
LET OFF A LITTLE STEAM'



IN BOOTSTRAP, CISCO GIVES THE OUTLAWS THE
SLIP AND

NOW, PANCHO --- IS
IT ALL CLEAR?



SI! PANCHO TELLS
THE SHERIFF WHAT IS UP!
THEN HE GETS DIABLO
AND LOCO AND HIDES
THEM ON WOLF RIDGE!
THEN HE GETS ONTO
THE TRAIN!



HE GETS INTO THE CABOOSE ---
AND STAYS THERE' WHEN THE
TROUBLE STARTS, I DO NOT
WANT TO BE FORCED TO LOOK
THROUGH THE WHOLE TRAIN
FOR YOU'



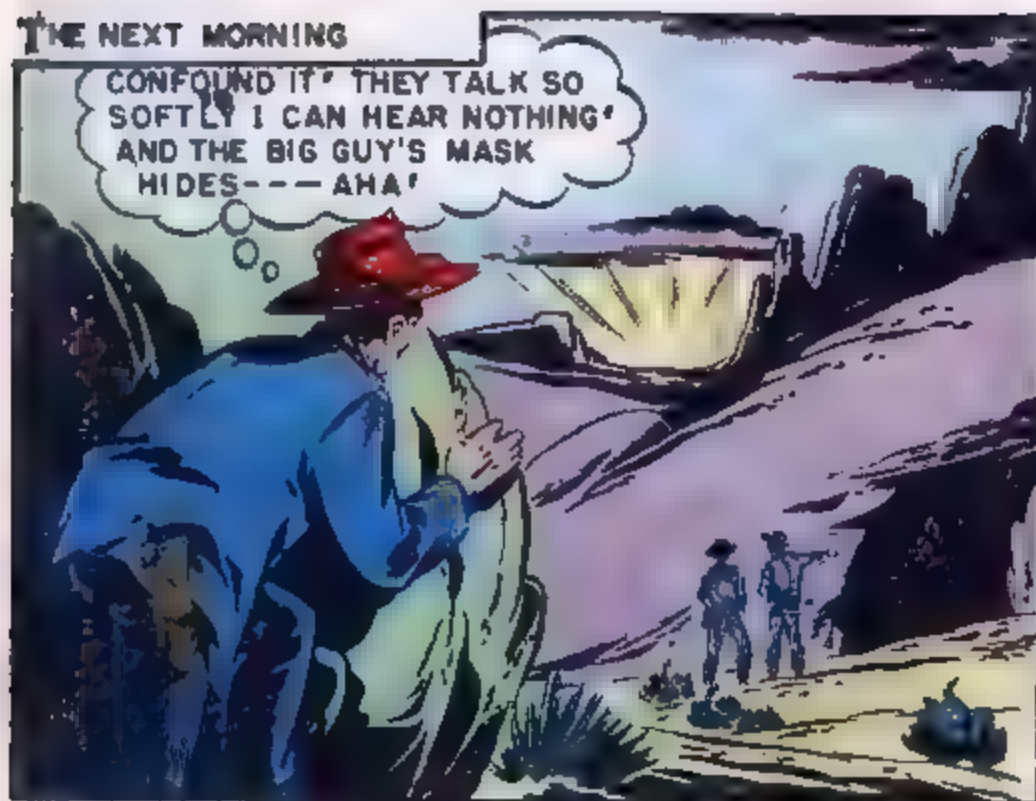
AND NOW I MUST GET
BACK TO THE CAFE
BEFORE I AM MISSED!
SEE YOU TO MORROW!



SI! AND WILL
PANCHO BE
GLAD' HE IS
ALL TIRED
OUT FROM SO
MUCH WAITING!

THE NEXT MORNING

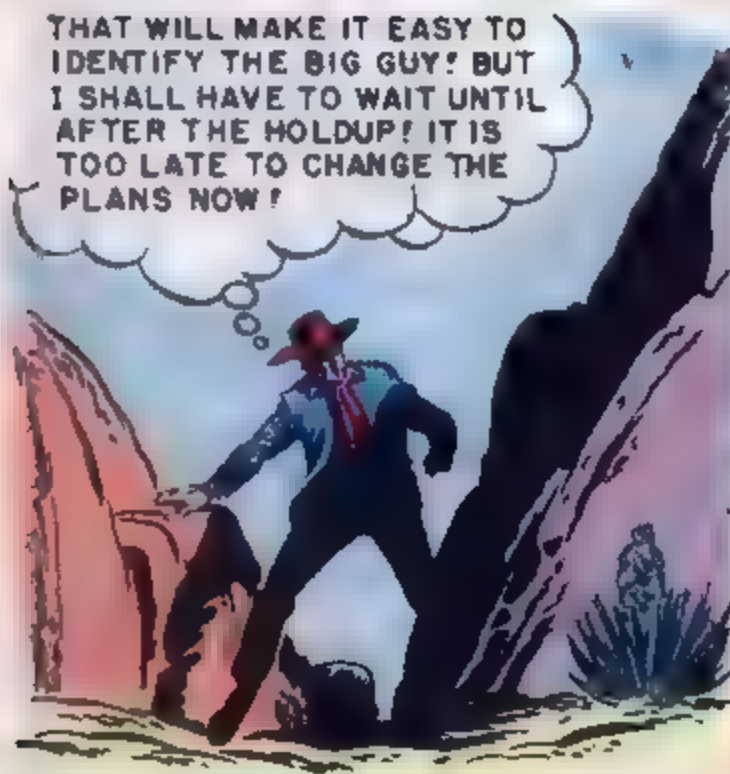
CONFOUND IT! THEY TALK SO SOFTLY I CAN HEAR NOTHING! AND THE BIG GUY'S MASK HIDES---AHA!



HIS WATCH FOB! THERE CANNOT BE TWO LIKE THAT!

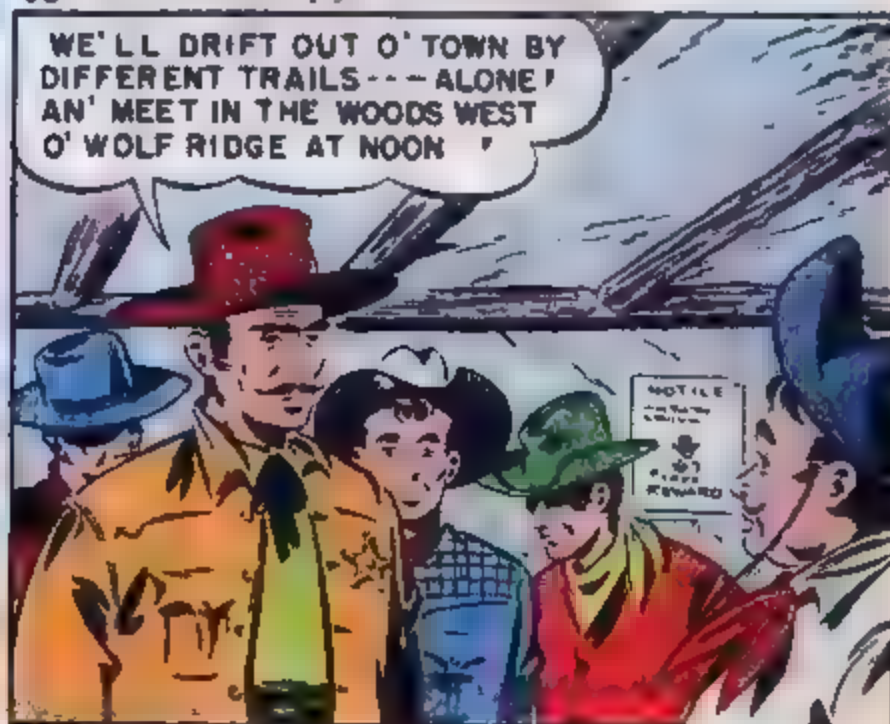


THAT WILL MAKE IT EASY TO IDENTIFY THE BIG GUY! BUT I SHALL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE HOLDUP! IT IS TOO LATE TO CHANGE THE PLANS NOW!



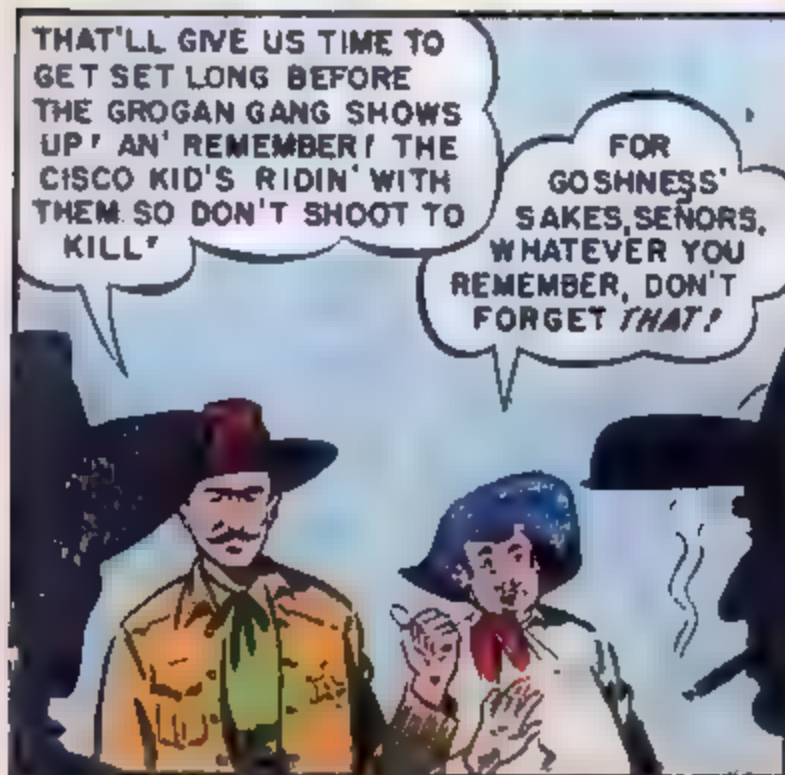
AT THAT MOMENT, IN BOOTSTRAP

WE'LL DRIFT OUT O' TOWN BY DIFFERENT TRAILS---ALONE! AN' MEET IN THE WOODS WEST O' WOLF RIDGE AT NOON!



THAT'LL GIVE US TIME TO GET SET LONG BEFORE THE GROGAN GANG SHOWS UP! AN' REMEMBER! THE CISCO KID'S RIDIN' WITH THEM SO DON'T SHOOT TO KILL!

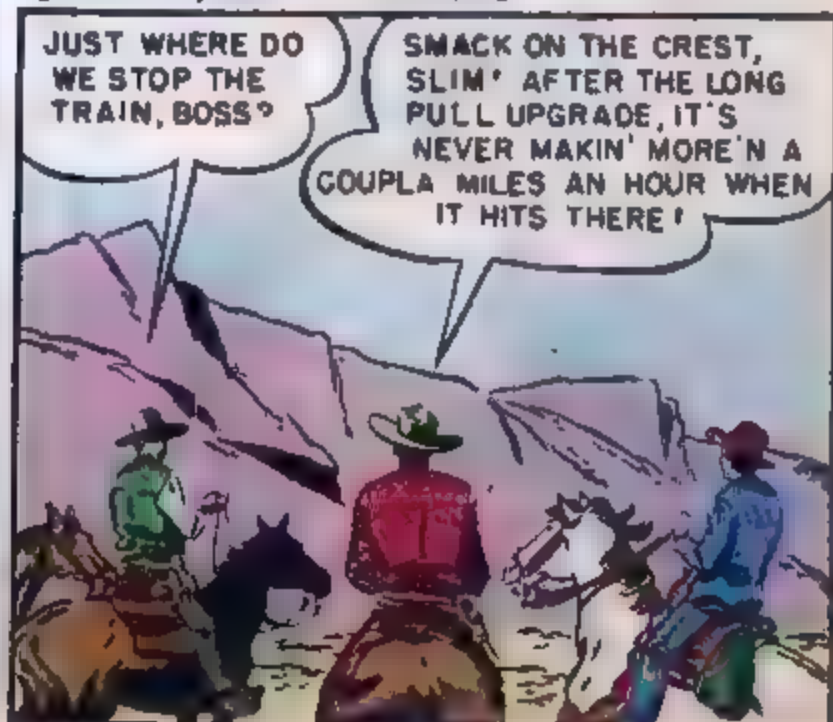
FOR GOSHNESS' SAKES, SENORS, WHATEVER YOU REMEMBER, DON'T FORGET THAT!



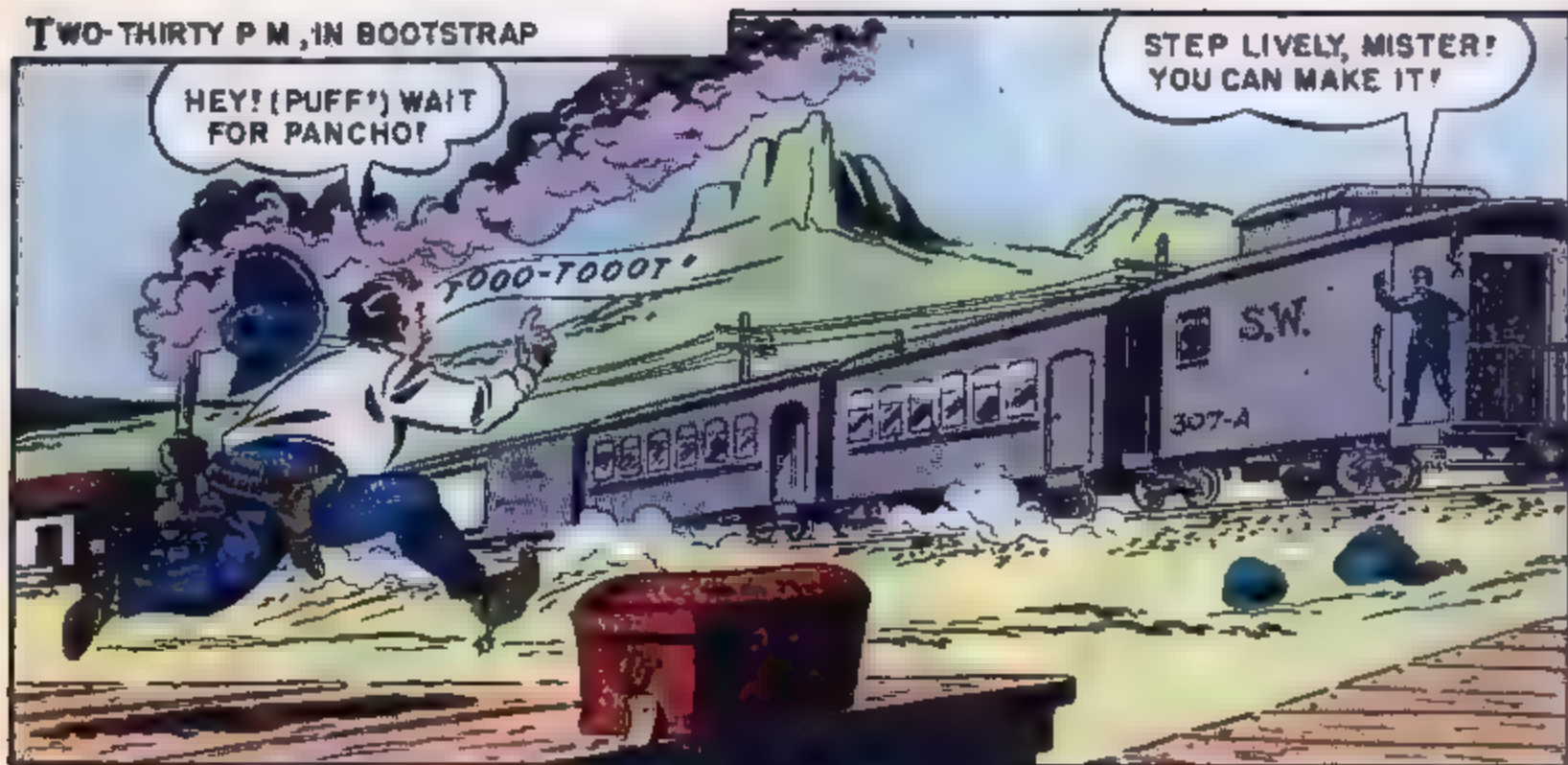
TWO P.M., NEAR WOLF RIDGE

JUST WHERE DO WE STOP THE TRAIN, BOSS?

SMACK ON THE CREST, SLIM! AFTER THE LONG PULL UPGRADE, IT'S NEVER MAKIN' MORE'N A COUPLA MILES AN HOUR WHEN IT HITS THERE!

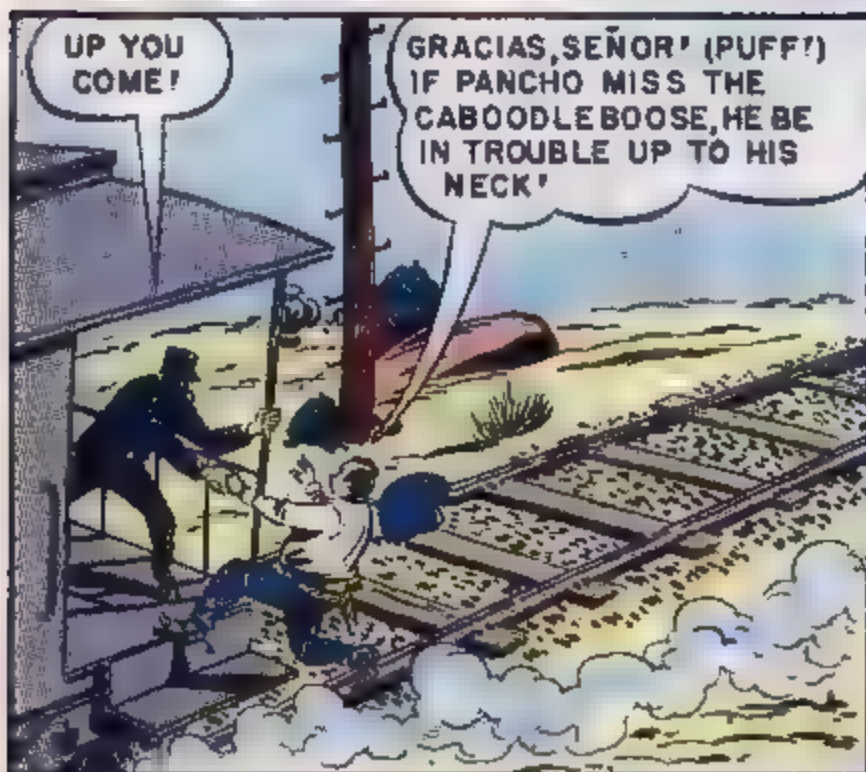


TWO-THIRTY P M ,IN BOOTSTRAP



HEY! (PUFF!) WAIT FOR PANCHO!

STEP LIVELY, MISTER! YOU CAN MAKE IT!



UP YOU COME!

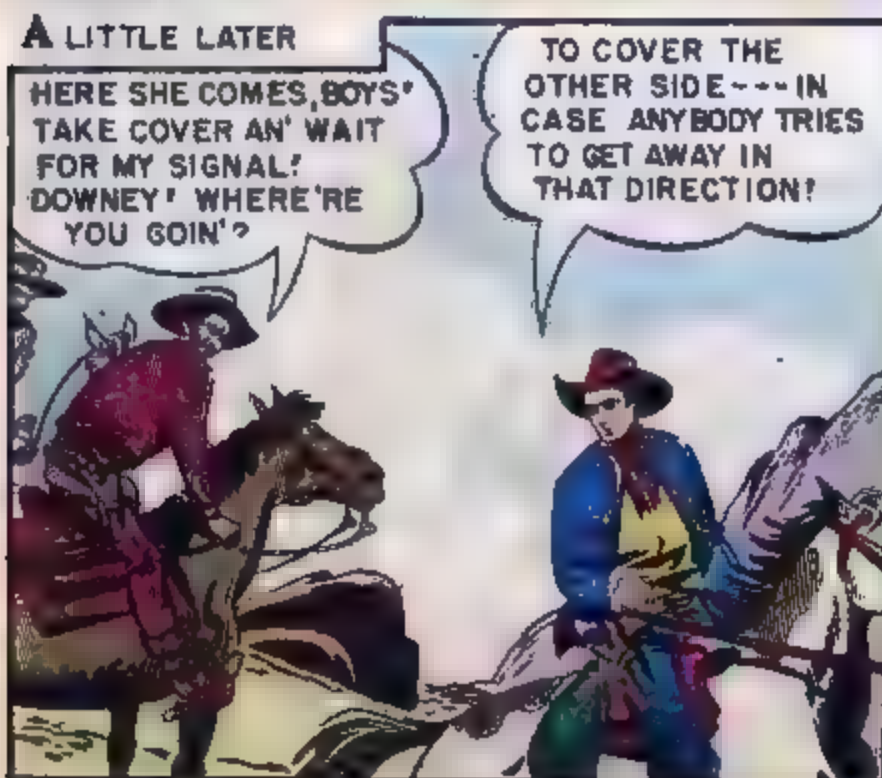
GRACIAS, SEÑOR! (PUFF!) IF PANCHO MISS THE CABOODLEBOOSE, HE BE IN TROUBLE UP TO HIS NECK!



STEP IN AND MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE!

IN THIS SO LITTLE PLACE, THAT IS EASIER DONE THAN SAID, SEÑOR!

A LITTLE LATER

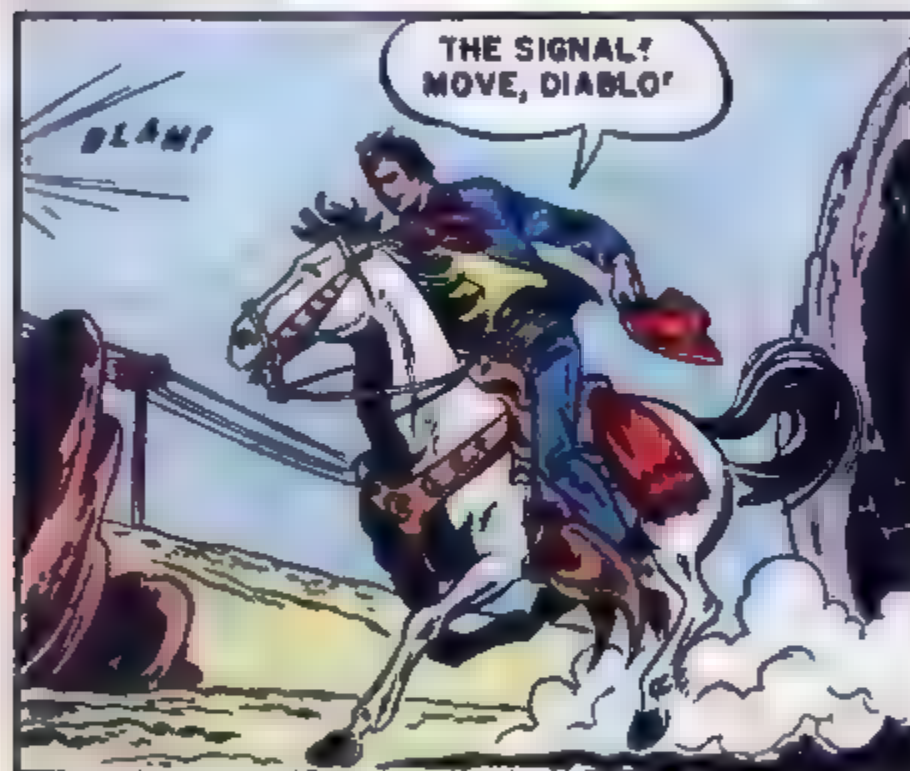


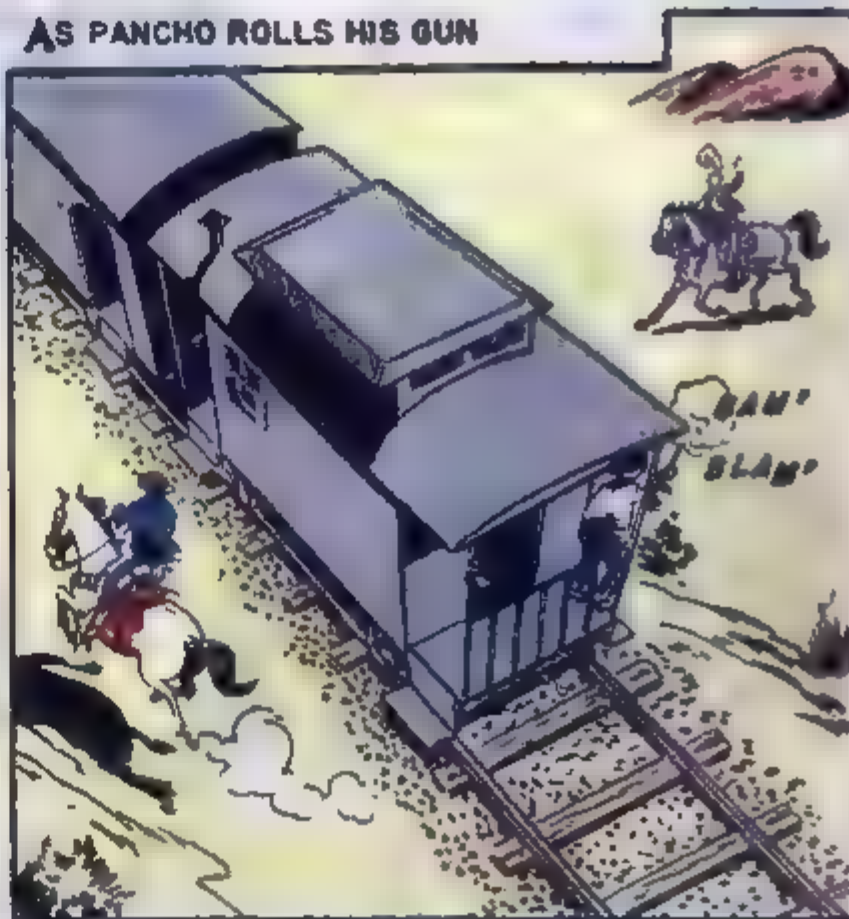
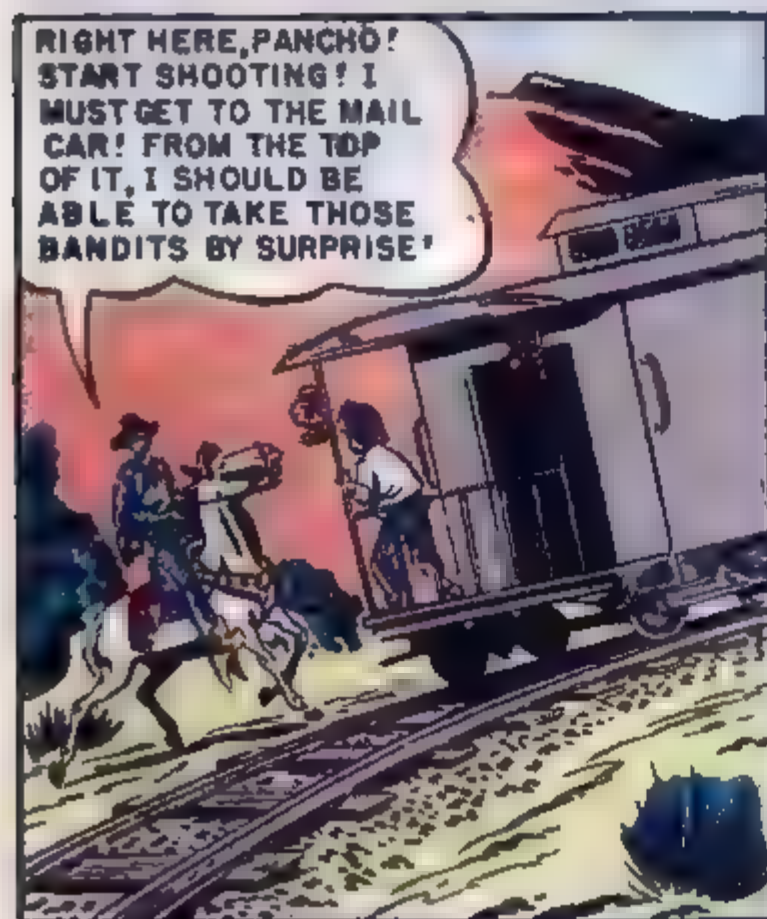
HERE SHE COMES, BOYS! TAKE COVER AN' WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL! DOWNEY! WHERE'RE YOU GOIN'?

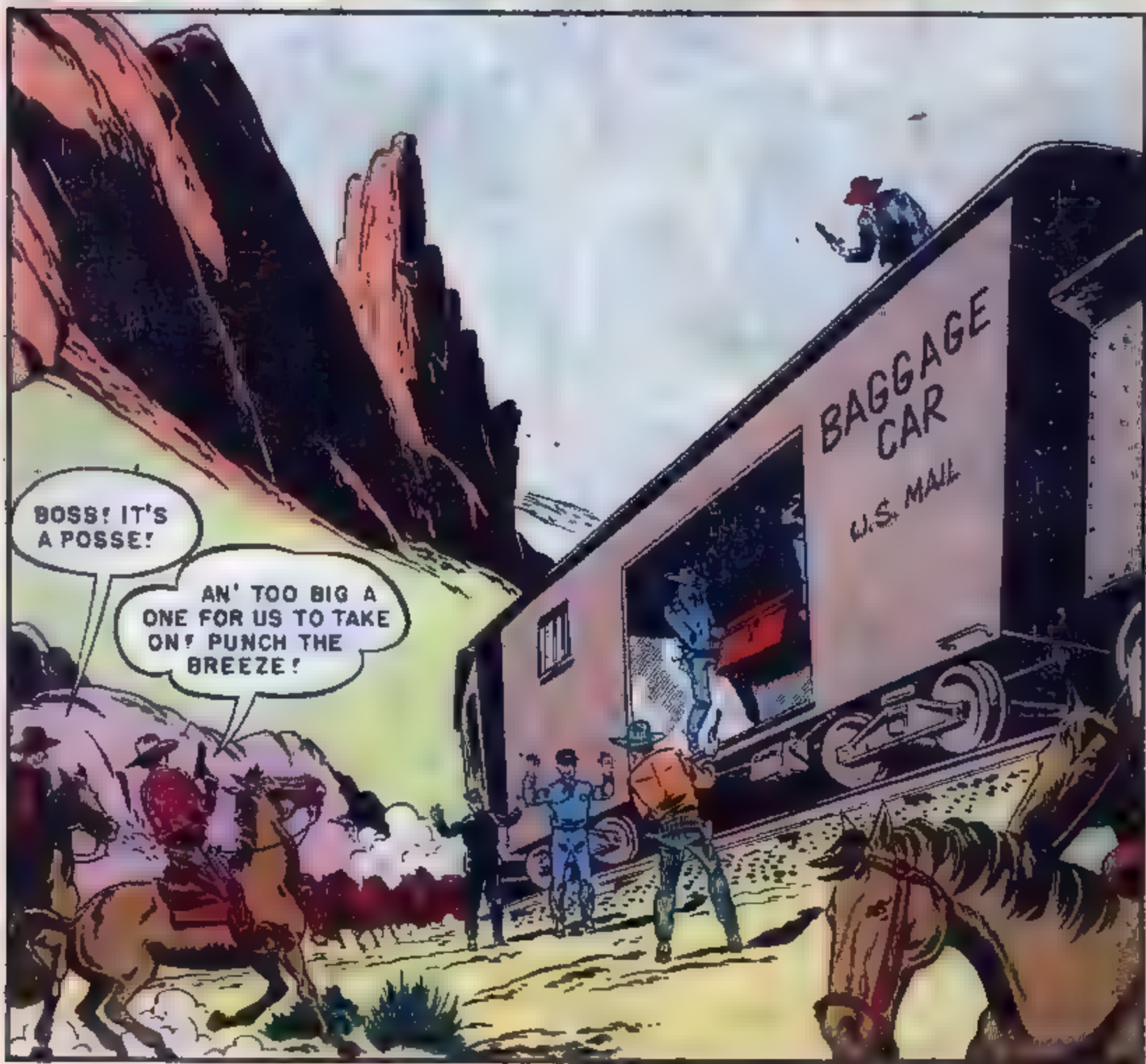
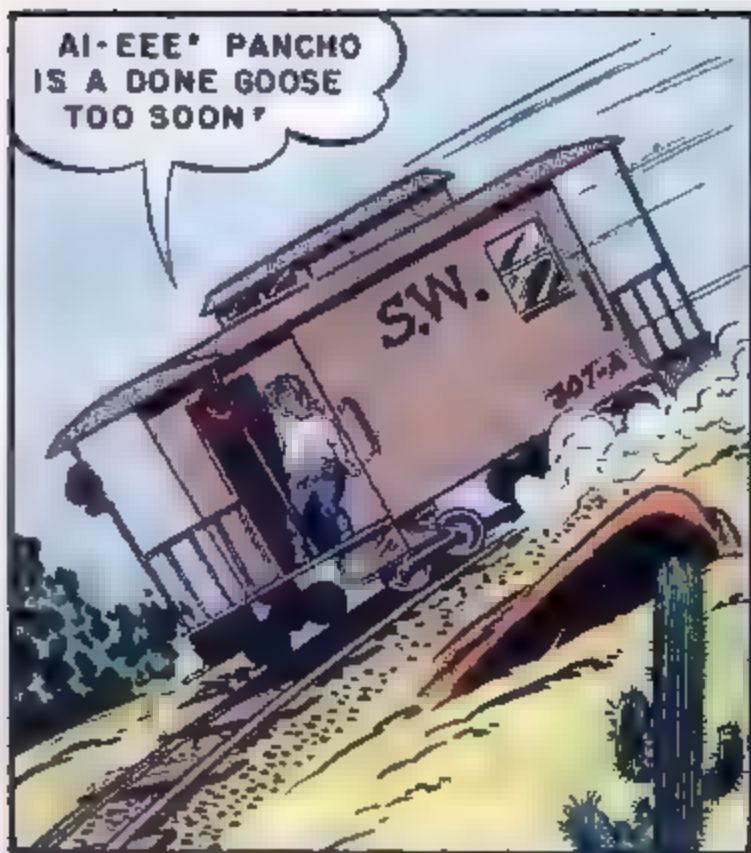
TO COVER THE OTHER SIDE---IN CASE ANYBODY TRIES TO GET AWAY IN THAT DIRECTION!

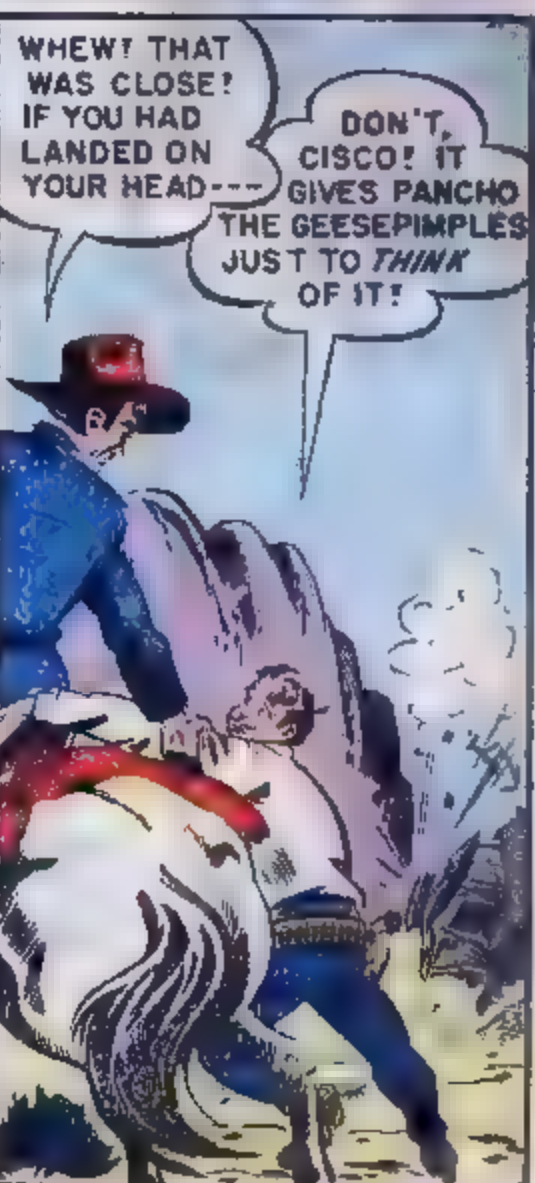
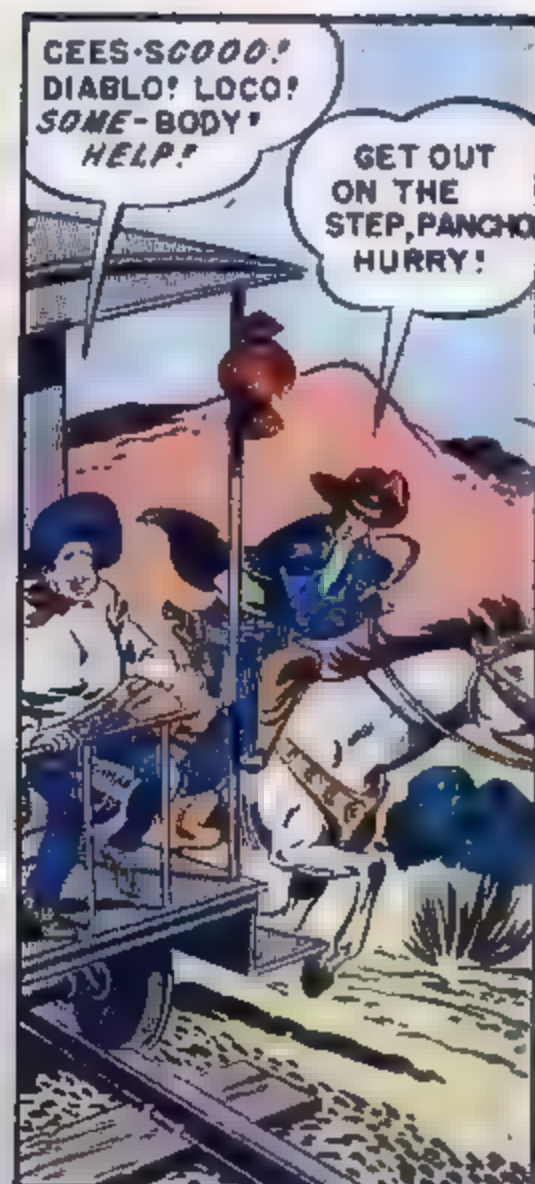


NOW, IF PANCHO HAD DIABLO AND LOCO WHERE WE AGREED!









A LITTLE LATER..

WE NABBED ALL WE COULD FIND, CISCO! BUT THE ONE THEY CALL "THE BIG GUY" ISN'T HERE!

I WILL FIND HIM! LINE UP THE PASSENGERS!



BUT AS HE SWINGS TO THE GROUND, CISCO SPOTS HIS MAN

THIS ONE IS "THE BIG GUY" I RECOGNIZE THE WATCH FOB! DO YOU RECOGNIZE HIM?

YEAH 'HE'S ED RAND, THE EXPRESS AGENT IN BOOTSTRAP'



GO AHEAD AN' SHOOT, CISCO! I'LL GET THE SHERIFF!



YOU TALK TOO SOON, SEÑOR!



SUNDOWN

WELL, THAT'S THE END OF THE GROSAN GANGS! YOU'LL GET A GOOD REWARD FOR THIS DAY'S WORK, CISCO!

I DO NOT ACCEPT REWARDS! BUT PANCHO COULD USE SOME OF IT FOR RAILROAD FARE TO CHIHUAHUA!



NOT ON YOUR LIVES! PANCHO WILL GO BY HORSEBACKS! THE NEXT TIME HE GETS ON A TRAIN, HE DON'T!



THE CISCO KID

AND THE BLACK GHOSTS OF EL REFUGIO

LATE ONE AFTERNOON.

PANCHO IS *SO* TIRED
AND *SO* HUNGRY! WHEN
DO WE MAKE THE CAMP
FOR THE NIGHT?

WE DON'T! TONIGHT
WE SLEEP IN BEDS
IN BLACK BLUFF! WE
SHOULD REACH
THERE SHORTLY
BEFORE DARK!



WHY SUCH A MUCH
HURRY? SEÑOR
HAWKINS' TROUBLE
WILL WAIT!

SHAME ON YOU,
PANCHO! JOHN IS
OUR FRIEND! HE
WIRED US FOR
HELP! HE---



HE IS A *SHERIFF*! AND---
SANTO! WHAT IS
HAPPENING TO LOCO?

HE LIMPS!
PROBABLY PICKED
UP A STONE!



SI! AND IT HAS
BRUISED HIS FEET!
POOR LOCO! HE CAN-
NOT HURRY NOW!

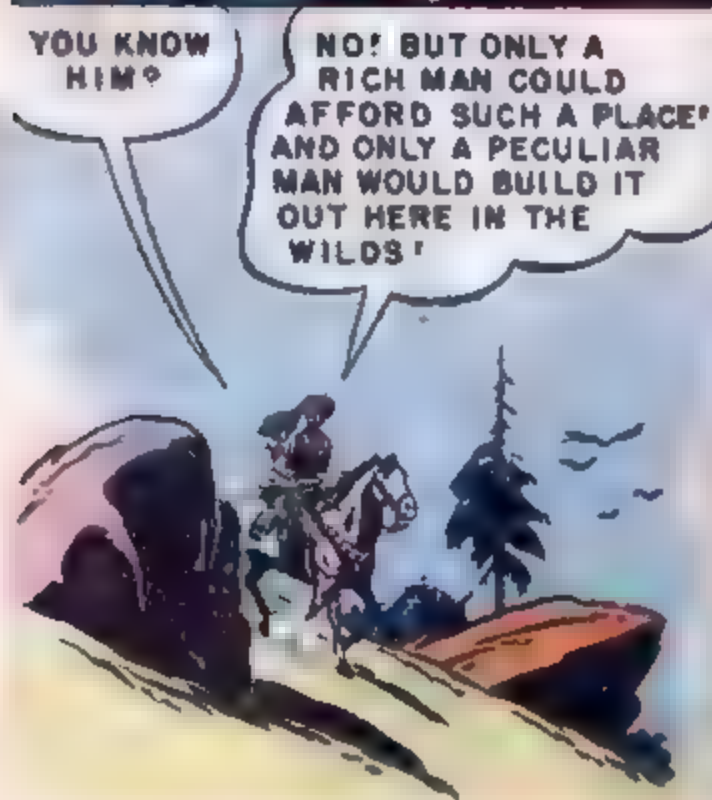
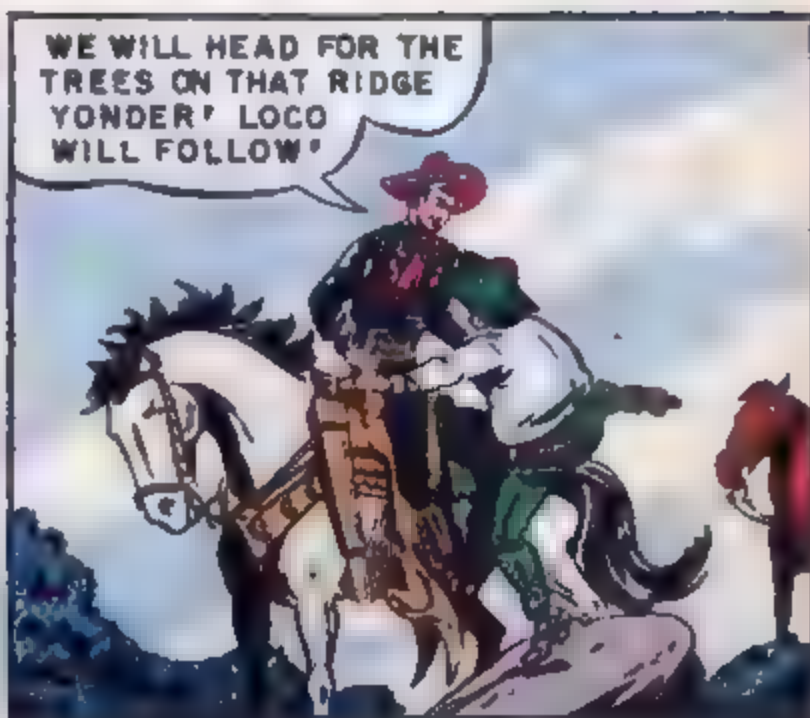
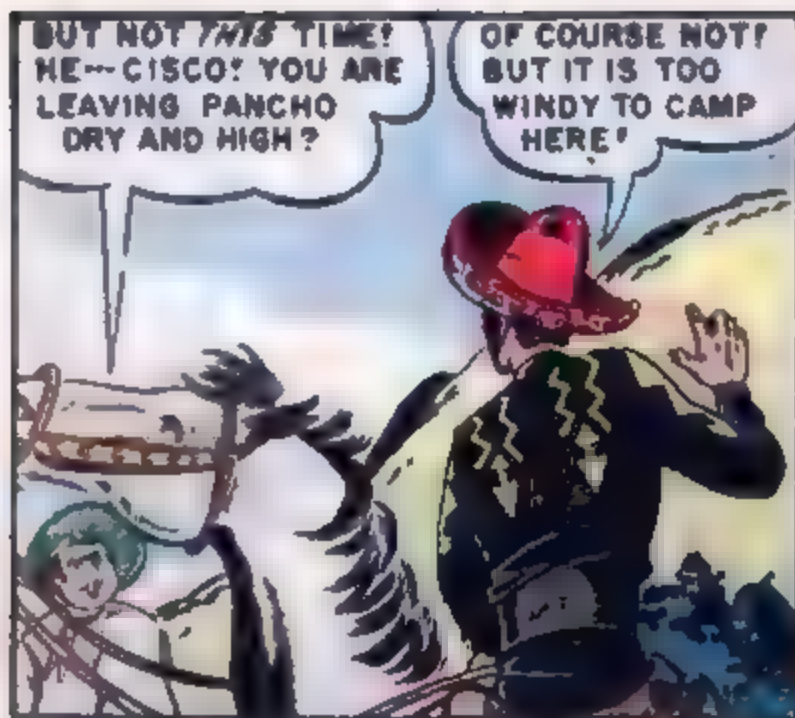
LET ME
SEE THE
STONE!

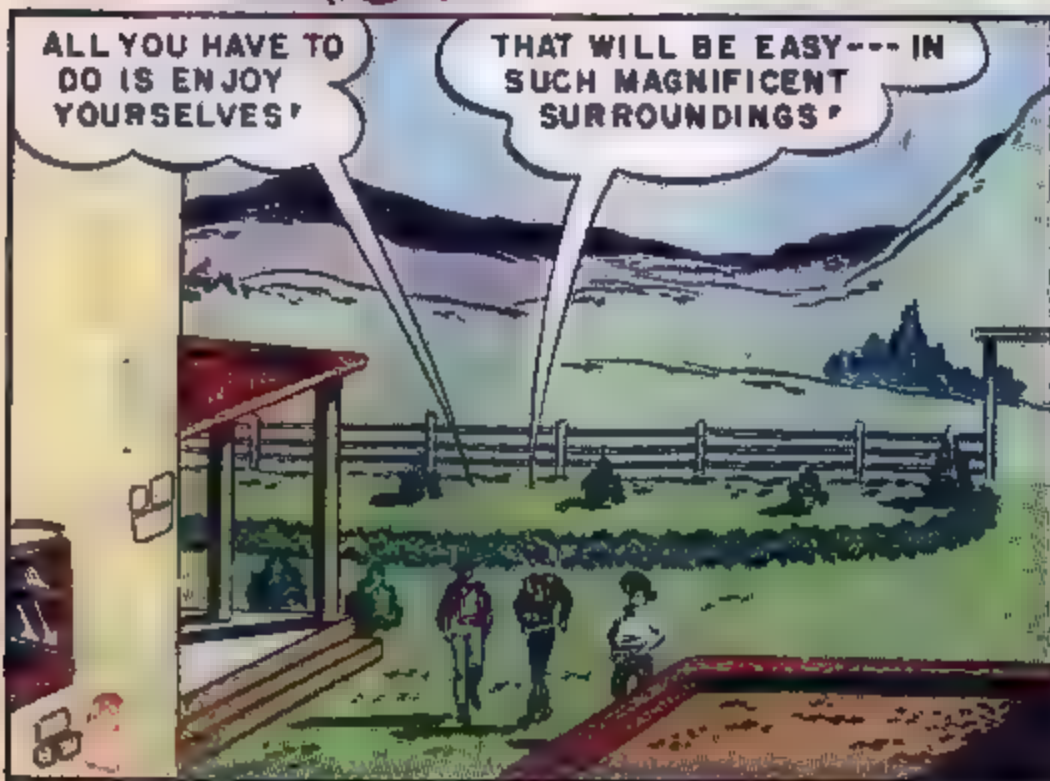
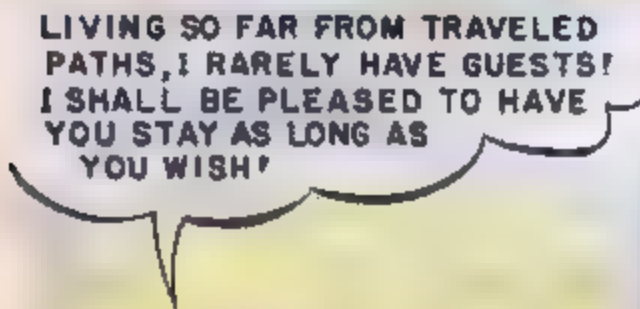
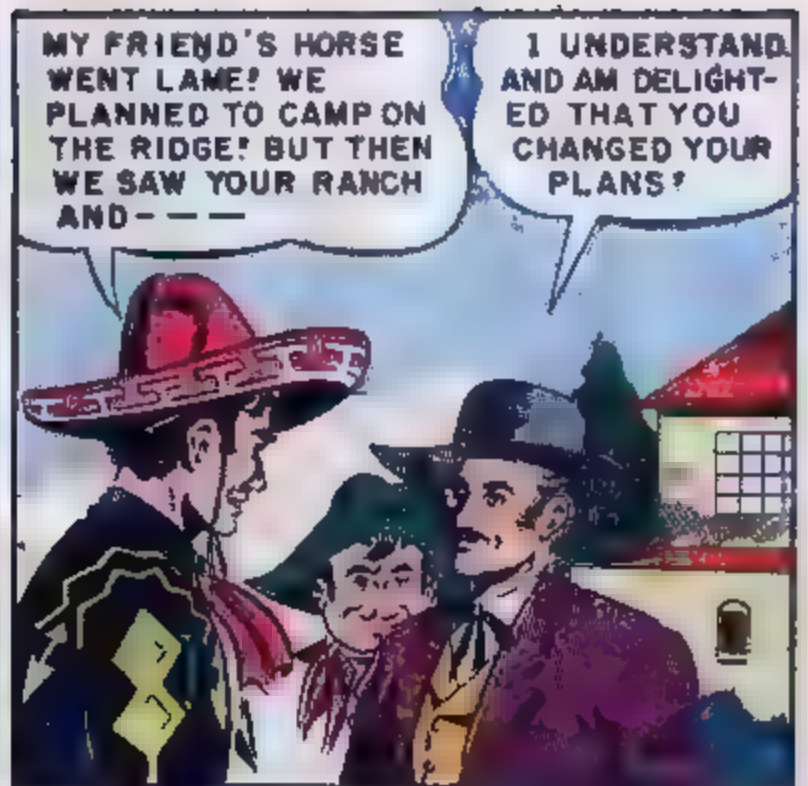
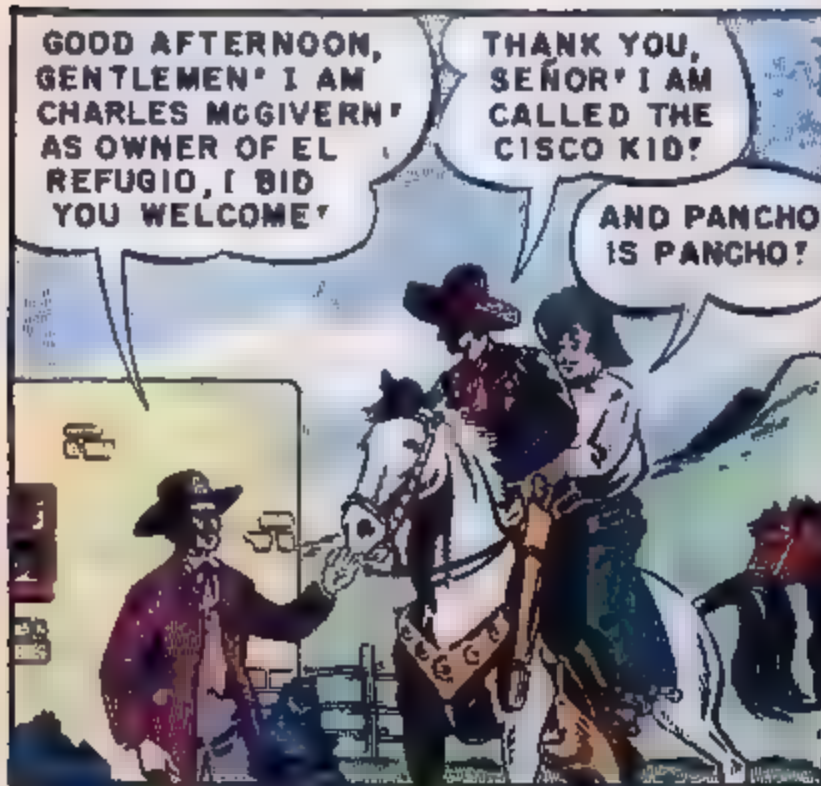


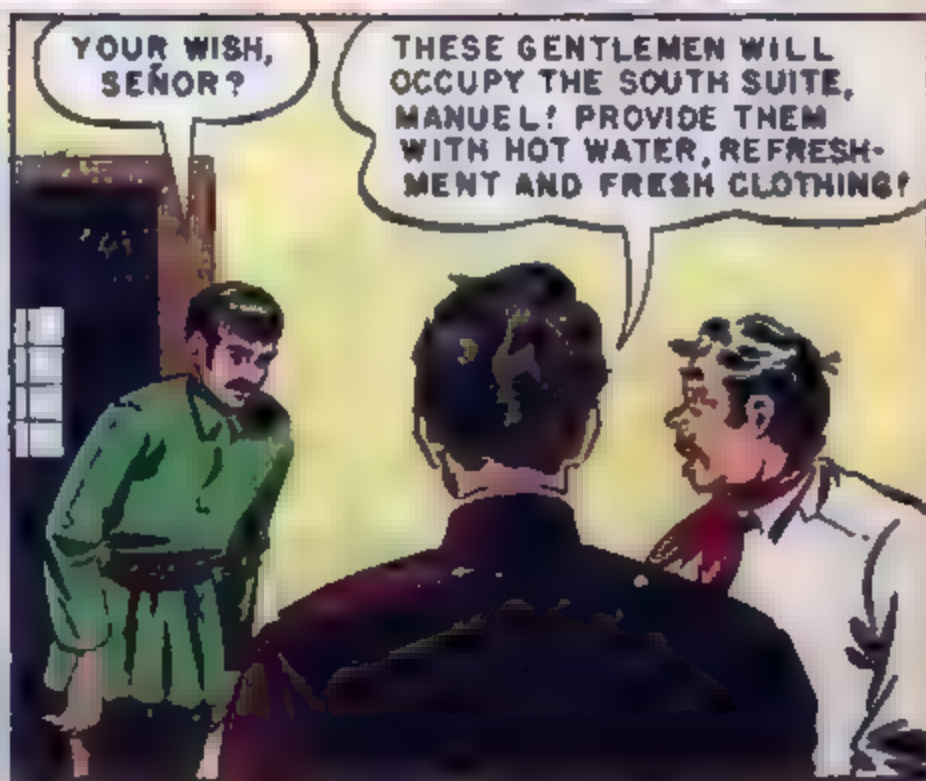
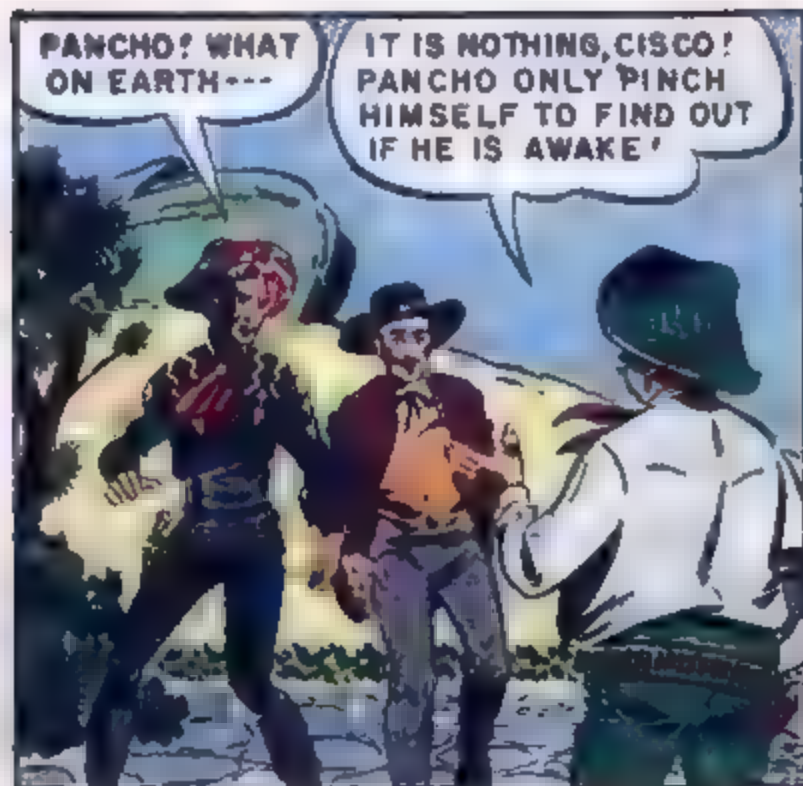
YOU ARE RIGHT, PANCHO!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE
FIBBING BECAUSE *YOU*
WANTED TO REST!

HUMPH! PANCHO
NEVER FIBS! HE
ONLY STRETCHES
THE TRUTH A
LITTLE SOME-
TIMES!









A LITTLE LATER ..

CISCO! THESE CLOTHES! THEY FIT PANCHITO TO THE T! ---AHA! YOU, TOO, ARE THE GRAND CABALLERO, EH?



SI! AND A PUZZLED ONE! COME HERE!



I CANNOT FIGURE OUT WHAT THAT BUILDING WITH THE ROUNDED ROOF IS!

THERE YOU GO! MAKING UP MORE MYSTERIES! WHY DON'T YOU BE LIKE PANCHITO? LET LYING DOGS SLEEP!



BECAUSE I HAVE A STRANGE FEELING ABOUT THIS PLACE--- AND ITS OWNER! AS IF NEITHER WERE WHAT THEY SEEM!

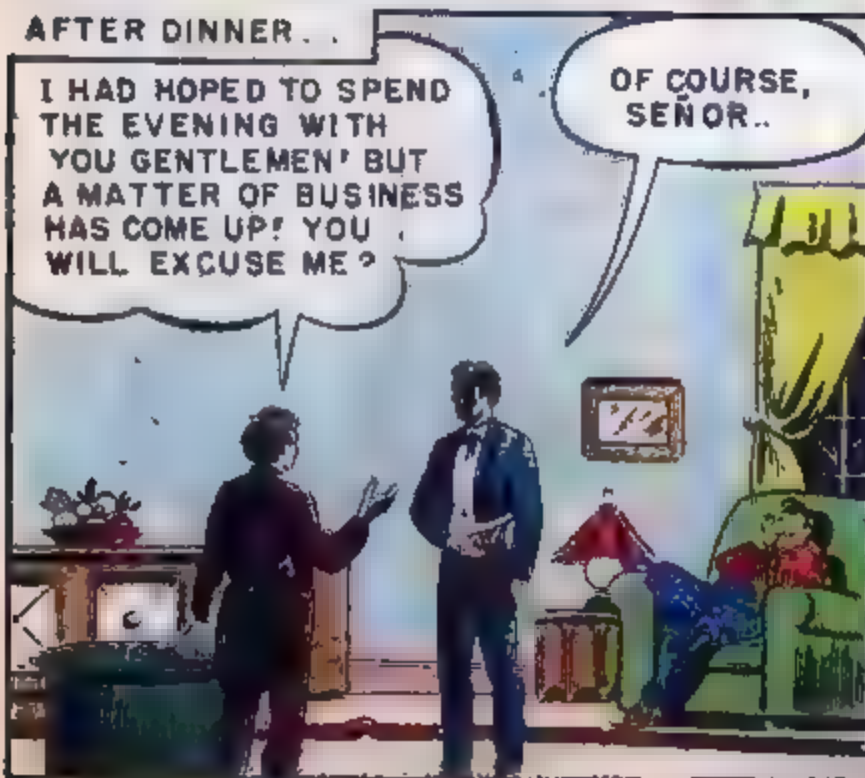
HUMPH! YOU FIND SOMETHING WRONG, PANCHITO WILL EAT HIS SOMBRERO!



AFTER DINNER ..

I HAD HOPED TO SPEND THE EVENING WITH YOU GENTLEMEN! BUT A MATTER OF BUSINESS HAS COME UP! YOU WILL EXCUSE ME?

OF COURSE, SEÑOR..



TO TELL THE TRUTH, WE HAVE RIDDEN FAR TODAY! IT WILL BE GOOD TO TURN IN EARLY, EH, PANCHITO?



MIDNIGHT

IT BEGINS TO LOOK AS IF PANTO WERE RIGHT! BUT MY HUNCH WAS SO STRONG, I --- WHAT IS THAT?



IT SOUNDS LIKE RIDERS COMING OVER THE RISE BEYOND THE CORRAL!



FOUR HORSEMEN! BUT HOW NOISELESSLY THEY RIDE! LIKE BLACK GHOSTS!



AND NO WONDER! THEIR HORSES' HOOFES ARE PADDED! AND THEY WEAR NO SPURS!



THOSE ARE STRANGE-LOOKING BUNDLES! I WONDER --- WE ARE NOT FAR FROM THE BORDER HERE ---



OF COURSE! SENOR MCGIVERN IS A SMUGGLER! HIS ACTIVITIES MIGHT BE THE REASON SHERIFF HAWKINS SENT FOR US!



ON THE OTHER HAND, HE MAY KNOW NOTHING OF THIS STRANGE BUSINESS! SO I SHALL IGNORE IT UNTIL I HAVE TALKED WITH HIM!



THE NEXT MORNING...

LOOK, CISCO! LOCO IS OKAY! FITS AS THE FIDDLER!

SI! BUT AT THE MOMENT, I AM MORE INTERESTED IN SENOR MCGIVERN'S WHEREABOUTS! WE SHOULD THANK HIM FOR ---



CISCO! SURELY YOU'RE NOT LEAVING SO SOON? I WANTED TO SHOW YOU MY HOBBY! IT IS WELL WORTH SEEING!

WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT IN BLACK BLUFF! BUT IF WE ARE A FEW MINUTES LATE, IT WILL NOT MATTER!



GOOD! COME ALONG! AND PREPARE TO BE SURPRISED!

HO-HO! PANCHO DON'T HAVE TO DO ANY PREPARING! HE HAS BEEN ASTONISHMENT-ED SINCE HE GOT HERE!



KEEP YOUR GUN HANDY, PANCHO! THIS MAY BE A TRICK!

NO SENSES! THE ONLY TRICKS HERE ARE THE ONES CISCO'S IMAGINATION IS PLAYING!



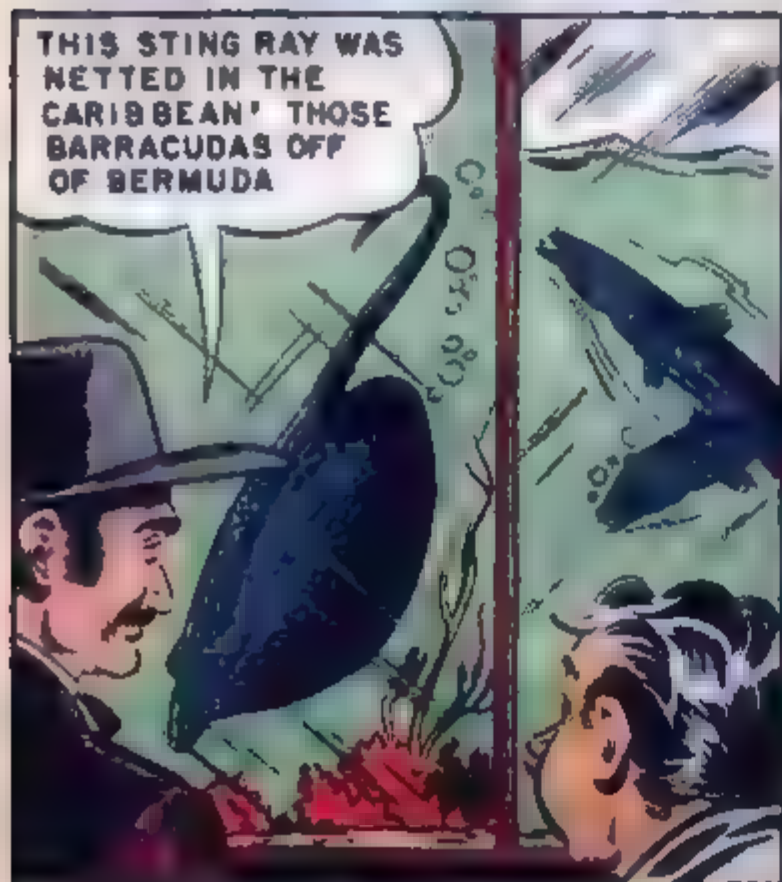
MADRE MIA!
WHAT IT IS?

AN
AQUARIUM!

CONTAINING DEEP SEA
DENIZENS FROM THE
SEVEN SEAS!



THIS STING RAY WAS
NETTED IN THE
CARIBBEAN! THOSE
BARRACUDAS OFF
OF BERMUDA



AI-EEE! GIANT
SNAKES!



NO, PANCHO! MORAY
EELS! FIERCE IN THEIR
NATIVE HABITAT! BUT
HARMLESS BEHIND
STRONG GLASS!



YOUR PARDON, SEÑOR! PANCHO GETS OUT OF HERE PRONTO! COOKED FISHES HE DON'T MIND! BUT THESE ONES GIVE HIM GEESE-PIMPLES TWO FOOTS HIGH!



TEN MINUTES LATER

A MOST EXCITING SIGHT, SEÑOR! I REGRET I COULD NOT TAKE TIME TO STUDY YOUR EXHIBITS!

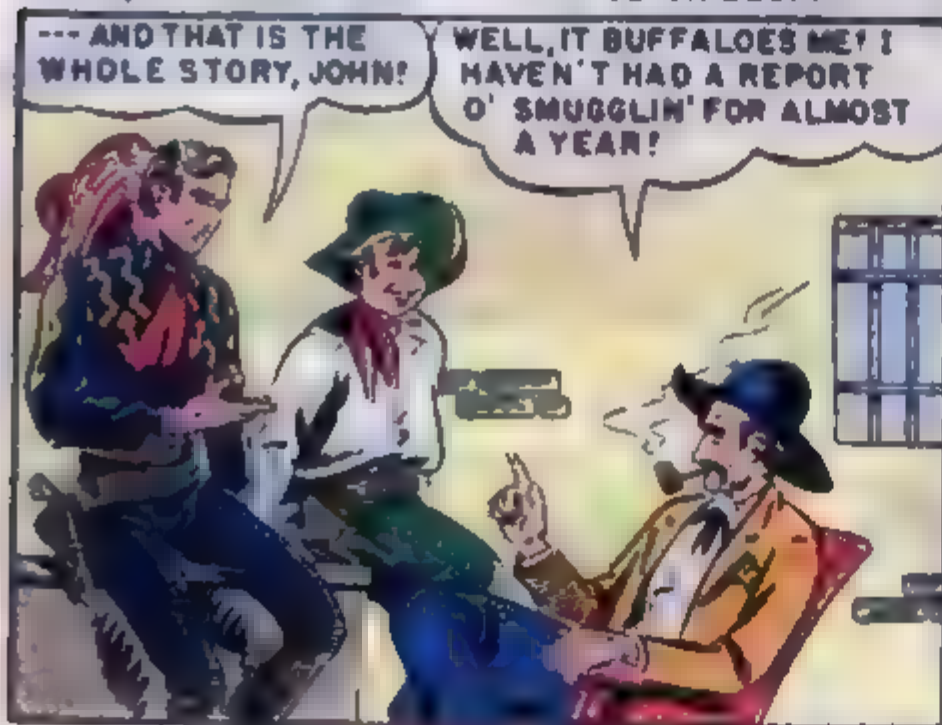
STOP IN ON YOUR WAY BACK FROM BLACK BLUFF! THEY--- AND I--- WILL STILL BE HERE!



NOON, IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN BLACK BLUFF

--- AND THAT IS THE WHOLE STORY, JOHN!

WELL, IT BUFFALOES ME! I HAVEN'T HAD A REPORT O' SMUGGLIN' FOR ALMOST A YEAR!



BUT EVERY COUPLA DAYS, A MISSIN' PERSONS REPORT COMES ALONG! SEEMS THE MEN O' THIS TERRITORY'RE DISAPPEARIN' AT A MIGHTY ALARMIN' RATE!



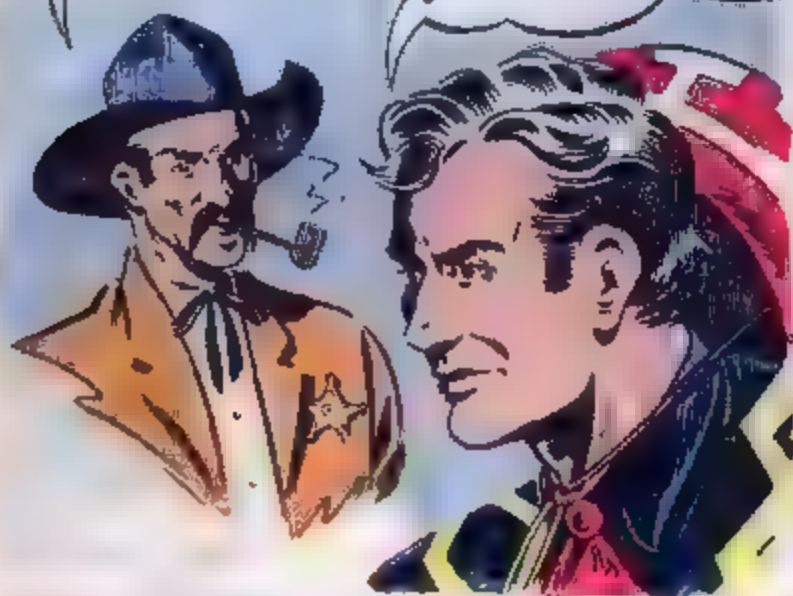
COUNTIN' THE TWO WHO VANISHED YESTERDAY, CLOSE ON TO THIRTY HAVE DROPPED OUT O' SIGHT IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS! AN' WE HAVEN'T TURNED UP A SINGLE, SOLITARY CLUE TO WHY THEY DID--- OR WHERE!

THAT IS STRANGE! I WONDER--- WHEN DID YOU SAY MCGIVERN CAME HERE?



LAST YEAR! BUT WHY ON EARTH WOULD HE KIDNAP A BUNCH O' MEN?

I DO NOT KNOW! BUT *SOMETHING* EVIL IS GOING ON OUT AT EL REFUGIO! AND I INTEND TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS!



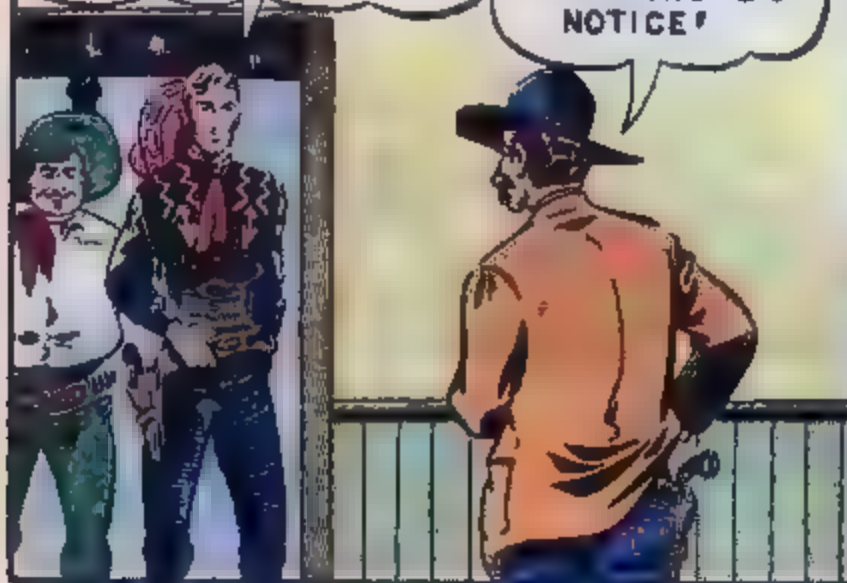
I'LL ROUND UP A POSSE AN' SHAKE THE PLACE DOWN FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER!

AND FIND NOTHING? MCGIVERN IS CLEVER--- EVEN BRILLIANT! IT WILL TAKE TIME AND PATIENCE, I AM AFRAID, TO UNCOVER HIS MYSTERIOUS ACTIVITIES!



PANCHO AND I HAVE BOTH! YOU ARE A BUSY MAN! SO WHY NOT LET US HANDLE IT?

OKAY! BUT I'LL LINE UP THE BOYS, AN' BE READY TO RIDE AT A MINUTE'S NOTICE!

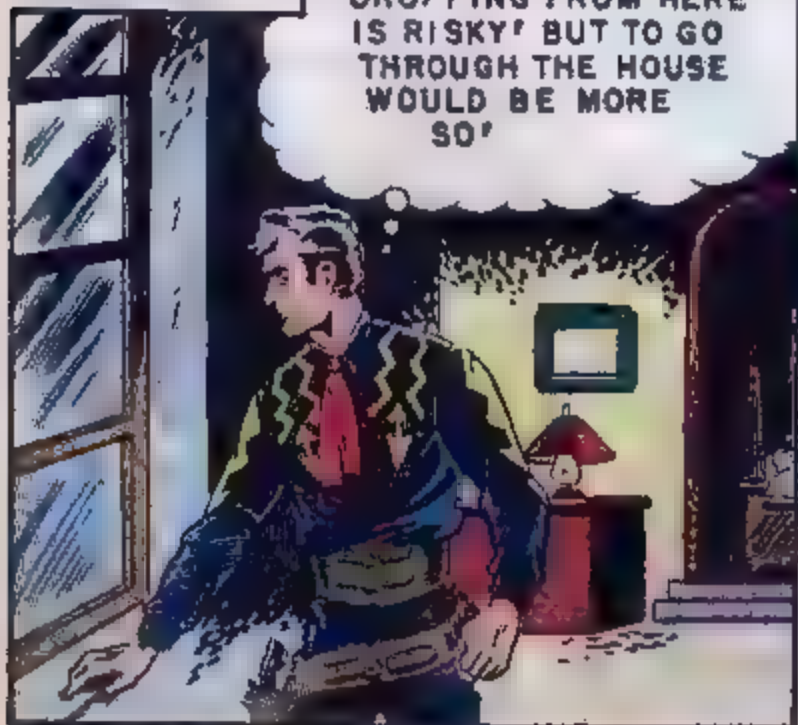


COME, PANCHO! THE SOONER WE RETURN TO EL REFUGIO, THE SOONER WE SOLVE ITS PUZZLE! AND, PERHAPS, THAT OF THE VANISHED HOMBRES, TOO!

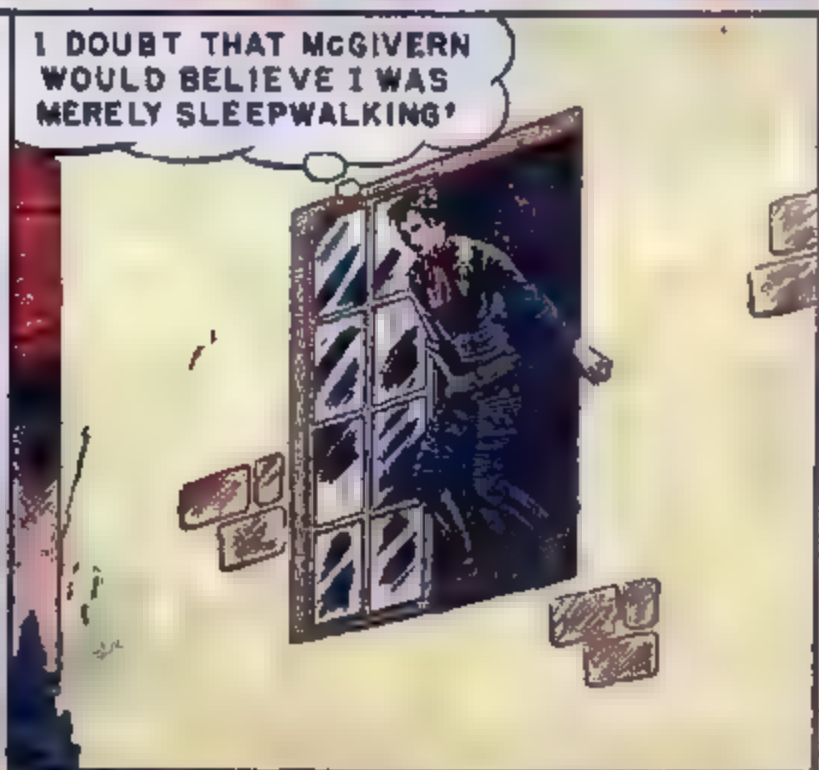


THAT NIGHT

DROPPING FROM HERE IS RISKY! BUT TO GO THROUGH THE HOUSE WOULD BE MORE SO!



I DOUBT THAT MCGIVERN WOULD BELIEVE I WAS MERELY SLEEPWALKING!



WITH CATLIKE AGILITY, CISCO
LANDS ON HIS FEET . .



AND SLIPS SILENTLY AND RA-
PIDLY THROUGH THE SHADOWS
TO THE AQUARIUM..



LOCKED! NOTHING TO DO
BUT WAIT AND HOPE THE
BLACK GHOSTS — — —



AT THAT MOMENT, HIS KEEN EARS
CATCH THE SOFT THUD-THUD OF
HOOFS

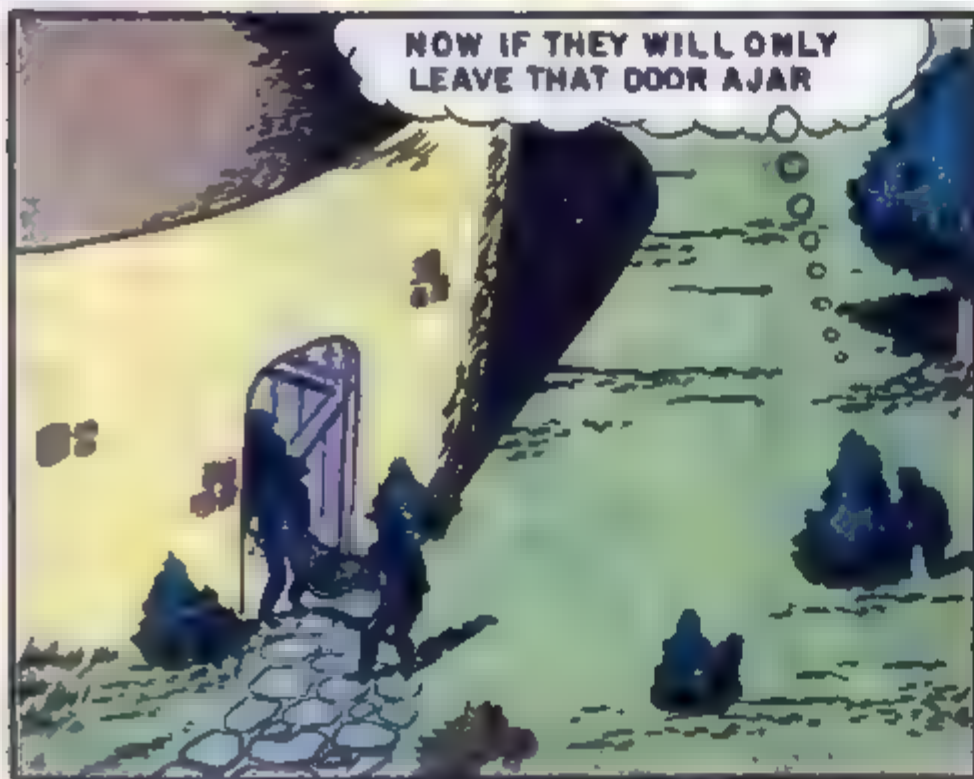


HE GAINS COVER JUST IN TIME . .



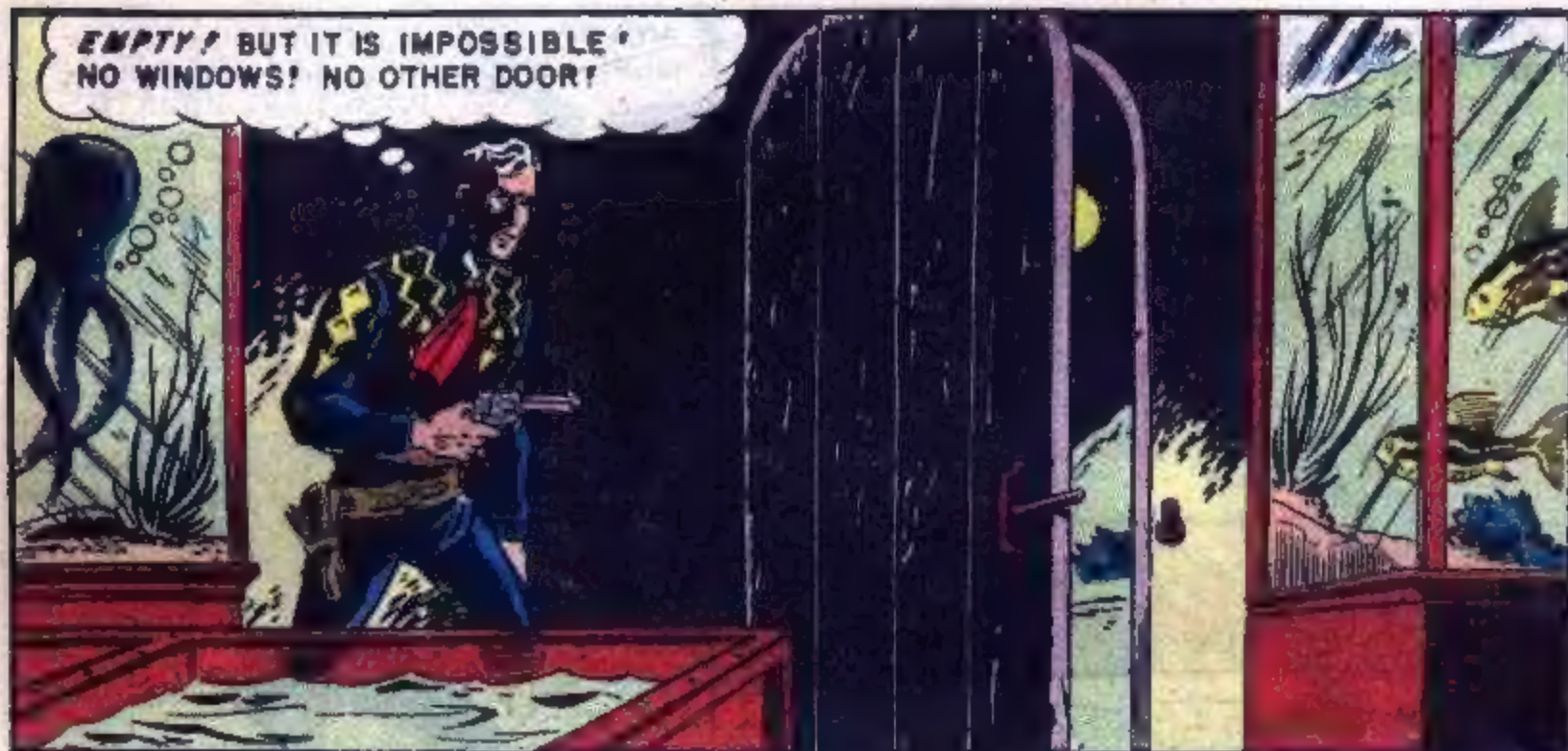
HMMM--- ONLY THREE
RIDERS AND *ONE*
BUNDLE TONIGHT!

NOW IF THEY WILL ONLY
LEAVE THAT DOOR AJAR



BUENO! MY LUCK
STILL HOLDS!





EMPTY! BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE!
NO WINDOWS! NO OTHER DOOR!

MEANWHILE, PANTO AWAKENS...



SANTO! NOW CISCO
DOES THE DISAPPEARING!



BUT PANTO WILL FIND HIM---
IF HE HAS TO TURN THIS
RANCHO UPSIDES-DOWN
AND OUTSIDE-IN!

A FEW MINUTES LATER



MADRE MIA! THE FISHES
HOUSE IS OPEN! PANTO BET
HIS SHIRT HE FIND CISCO THERE!



HMMM--- PANTO GUESSES
WRONG THAT TIME! BUT
WHERE---



AI-EEE! CISCO IS
DROWNED DEAD!
WITH THE BIG SNAKES!



HELP!
MUR---

PANCHO! STOP THAT
YELLING! AND COME
BACK HERE PRONTO!

B-BUT, CISCO, YOU--- YOU
---MADRE MIA! YOU
ARE NOT WET! WHAT
THE SAM HILL
BLAZES---?

THERE IS NO
TIME TO EXPLAIN!
YOU MUST
RIDE FOR
THE SHERIFF!

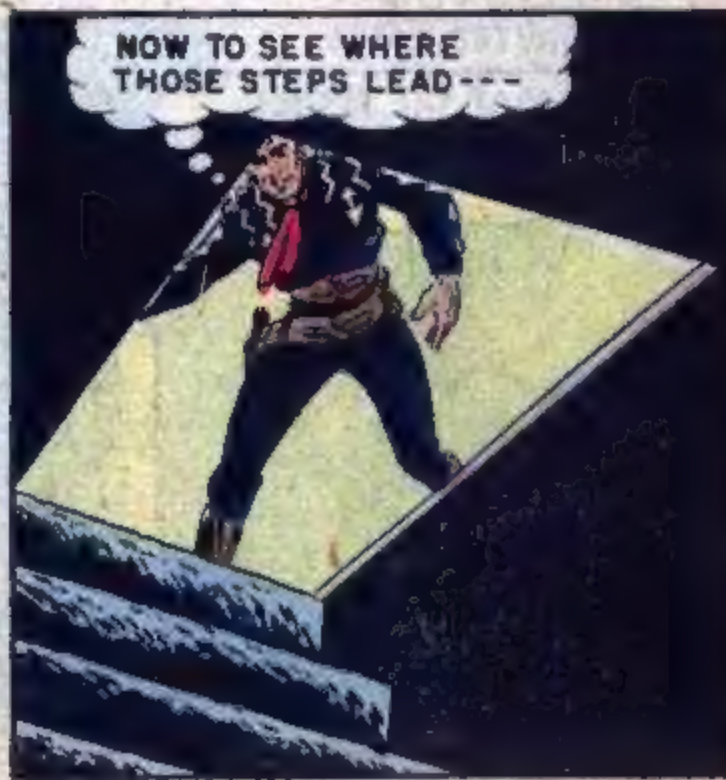
AFTER PANCHO IS SAFELY AWAY...



MCGIVERN MUST BE BELOW OR
HE WOULD SURELY HAVE
HEARD PANCHO'S YELLING!



LUCKY I LOOKED OVER THE
TOP OF THIS TANK! OTHER-
WISE I WOULD HAVE
MISSED THE FALSE BACK
AND THE TRAPDOOR!



NOW TO SEE WHERE
THOSE STEPS LEAD---



QUICKLY! GET
THE SLAVES INTO
THE FAR TUNNEL!
I WILL HOLD OFF
WHOEVER---

IT IS TOO LATE
FOR THAT, SEÑOR!
UP WITH YOUR
HANDS!





THE WIFE OF ONE KIDNAPED HOMBRE SAW THE KIDNAPERS--- AND TOLD THE SHERIFF THEY WORE BLACK CLOTHES AND RODE HORSES WITH PADS ON THE FEET--- SO HE COMES WITH THE POSSE!



AND PANCHO IS MAD! EVERY TIME HE MEETS NICE RICH PEOPLES, THEY TURN OUT TO BE LOW-DOWN RATSCALLIONS!

